

About NMKidsCAN



The Land of Enchantment needs bold leadership to guide us to a new vision of public education and to empower community voices to drive and sustain change. NewMexicoKidsCAN steps boldly into this role to ensure New Mexico remains focused on providing all children with the opportunity to become our future community, civic and business leaders.

Although New Mexico is a multicultural land, there are alarming gaps in outcomes between white students and Hispanic and Native American students, as well as gaps between low-income students and their affluent peers. We must embrace our unique complexities and push past longstanding political battles in order to create and sustain meaningful change in the New Mexico education system. The children of New Mexico and their families deserve nothing less—and the future of our state depends on it.

Our Vision

NewMexicoKidsCAN works to ensure education policies and practices enable our students to become the future community, civic and business leaders we need.

Our Mission

NewMexicoKidsCAN serves as a catalyst and conduit to advocate for community-informed, student-centered and research-backed education policies that work best for the children of New Mexico. Connecting policy, instructional practice and politics, we work to reimagine what is possible in New Mexico's public education system.

Our Values

- We believe that students, current and future, must remain at the center of all education decisions.
- We believe effective, sustainable policy change in New Mexico requires community ownership and collaboration.
- We believe New Mexico needs a dynamic education system that supports many different paths to success.
- We believe empowered New Mexican parents with many high-quality school options will drive better outcomes for students.
- We believe our leaders need the tools and authority to effectively manage their districts, schools and classrooms.

OUR LEADERSHIP

Amanda Aragon Executive Director



Amanda is motivated by her family and by other New Mexico citizens who do not have the same opportunities from which she benefitted. Starting her public education journey in Albuquerque Public Schools, her family moved to Rio Rancho, where she graduated from one of the state's best high schools. At the same time, many of Amanda's family members remained in chronically failing schools from elementary through high school. For these reasons, her commitment to improving education outcomes for every New Mexico student is personal and unwavering.

Amanda comes to advocacy after working in both the private and public sectors. She attended the University of Tulsa, where she obtained a degree in international business and Spanish, becoming the first person in her family to graduate from college. After college, Amanda worked in the energy sector and eventually as director of stakeholder relations for New Mexico at ConocoPhillips, where she managed the company's philanthropic investments and sponsorships as well as developed relationships with business and community leaders across the state. In 2015, Amanda was named New Mexico's top business professional under 30 by Albuquerque Business First. After six successful years in the energy sector, Amanda pursued public service as the director of strategic outreach at the New Mexico Public Education Department. Her experience working for the New Mexico Public Education Department affirmed her passion for education and motivated her to work to engage more stakeholders in working to improve New Mexico's education system, which led to development and creation of NewMexicoKidsCAN.

CONTACT US

nmkidscan.org
info@nmkidscan.org

  
[@nmkidscan](https://www.instagram.com/nmkidscan)

MEDIA CONTACT

Tom Garrity at the Garrity
Group Public Relations

505.898.8689
tom@garritypr.com