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David Fernandez Announced as New President of the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area

Española, New Mexico, November 5th, 2023 — The Board of Directors of the Northern Rio Grande National Heritage Area (NRGNHA) is proud to announce the election of David Fernandez as its new President. A dedicated advocate for the unique cultural landscape of Northern New Mexico, Mr. Fernandez brings to his role a deep personal connection to the region, a wealth of knowledge on its diverse histories, and a passionate commitment to its communities.

"David Fernandez is a Taoseño native of Taos, Nuevo Mexico, descended from many centuries of Spanish and Navajo bloodlines. He is the author of the Spanish language "Espiritu del Norte" and the English "The Blessing Way" newspaper columns, as well as the book on Taos moradas, Divine Light, Divine Blood, and many other writings, including works reflecting on his love and advocacy for El Santuario de Chimayo, and all the spirit(s) and deep legacies of El Norte."

Mr. Fernandez's election represents not only a nod to the traditions and spirit of Northern New Mexico but also a stride toward a future where the stories and wisdom of the past guide the stewardship of our treasured landscapes and cultural heritage.

Alongside Mr. Fernandez, the NRGNHA is excited to welcome new board members equally dedicated to preserving and celebrating the area's natural and cultural resources. Each member brings a unique perspective and expertise that will be instrumental in advancing the Heritage Area's mission. Additional members include Vice-President Anna Hansen, Secretary Roger Martinez, and Treasurer Michael Garcia.

About NRGNHA

The Northern Río Grande National Heritage Area is a significant component of our national story. The area of northern New Mexico, comprising the Heritage Area, carries its history and course of occupation distinct from that of the rest of the country and the rest of the Southwest. This history preceded the formation of the United States, including an indigenous revolution against the dominant power – the Pueblo Revolt of 1680 – which left its imprint on the cultural heritage that remains in northern New Mexico and its people. For more information, please visit www.riograndenha.org. ###