

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
Corrections Department
Western New Mexico Correctional Facility

BILL RICHARDSON, Governor

**Joe R. Williams,
Secretary of Corrections**

Lupe Martinez Marshall, Warden

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Western New Mexico Correctional Facility Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Grants, NM – On Friday October 16, 2009, the Western New Mexico Correctional Facility (WNMCF) will host a ceremony to celebrate 25 years of service to the citizens of New Mexico. The event will begin at 11:00 a.m. Secretary of Corrections, Joe R. Williams, will be the guest speaker. Williams served as warden of WNMCF from 1992-1995. (This is not a public event; however, members of the media may attend.)

The facility's new warden, Lupe Martinez Marshall, will also speak at the ceremony. Marshall has been with the New Mexico Corrections Department for 24 years. Before accepting the job as warden at WNMCF, she served as warden at the Roswell Correctional Center.

During the ceremony, current and former staff will be recognized. Two employees, who were hired as correctional officers, when the prison first opened in 1984, are still working as correctional officers today. Denny Archunde has 25-plus years of continuous service, and John Barela, who retired as a correctional officer in 2005, returned in 2008 to work as a maintenance officer. Since the prison opened, there have been over 60 employees that have retired from the facility with 20-plus years of service. There have been 23 second generation families that have worked at WNMCF, as well as a third generation family, in which two family members, a mother and daughter, are still employed.

Close to 250 people are employed at WNMCF. The staff and inmates support the community through a number of projects. Supervised inmate crews help maintain school grounds when school is not in service, they work on the grounds at Bluewater Lake, and inmate crews work with the Department of Transportation cleaning up the highways and doing small road-side projects in and around Grants. Correctional officers participate in the annual Junior Officer Law Enforcement Training (JOLT), a multi-agency program that introduces kids to law enforcement careers. Employees also give generously to community charities including Walk for Life, Koats for Kids, Toys for Tots and the Saint Vincent DePaul food drive.

The prison incarcerates 428 adult male offenders at custody Levels II, III, and IV, which are equivalent to minimum, medium and high-medium security levels.

The Western New Mexico Correctional Facility is a state-owned-and-operated American Correctional Association accredited facility.