



NEW MEXICO CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR

Alisha Tafoya Lucero, Cabinet Secretary

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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NMCD receives prestigious award

Santa Fe, NM – The New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) is proud to announce that through hard work and commitment to public safety, the entire department was one of only 11 correctional agencies nationwide in 2019 to earn the prestigious Lucy Webb Hayes Award.

The Lucy Webb Hayes Award is granted by the American Correctional Association (ACA) to any correctional agency that has full department-wide compliance with ACA accreditation standards, and full compliance with the federal Prison Rape Elimination Act (PREA) standards. The ACA reports that there are over 1500 total corrections agencies nationwide. This award represents the highest commitment to excellence in correctional operations and the dedication of NMCD to improving the quality of public safety and the well-being of those in our care.

The ACA's accreditation process ensures that the department under review is following processes and procedures that safeguard the health, safety, and life of the public, staff, and offenders. The process includes evaluation of all facility administration, operation, and management. The ACA sends a Visiting Committee to audit and review the department's compliance with all parts of expected practice. This process took place at all state and private facilities, Probation and Parole, Corrections Industries, the Training Academy, and the Central Office for NMCD. Once a department is found compliant, the accreditation lasts for three years, in which time the department must maintain the level of compliance achieved.

The Lucy Webb Hayes award was granted at the 149th Congress of Corrections, hosted by the ACA on August 5th 2019. NMCD Cabinet Secretary Alisha Tafoya Lucero received the award on behalf of NMCD and said, "This distinguished award is due entirely to the hard work and diligence of NMCD's staff."

The award is named after Lucy Hayes, the wife of President Rutherford B. Hayes, who served as ACA's first President at its founding in 1870. Following this, he became the 19th President of the United States from 1877 to 1881. After his U.S. Presidency ended, he came back to serve once again as ACA's President from 1883-1892. Lucy Hayes was the main influence and reason behind Rutherford taking an interest in reform in the prison systems in Ohio, since, at the time of ACA's formation in 1870, he was then the Governor of Ohio.

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