

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
COLLEGE OF ACES

Raymond Loretto '73, DVM



“Go out, get an education, and then come back to help your people.”

Raymond Loretto '73, DVM, is an enrolled member of the Pueblo of Jemez. His career has spanned veterinary medicine, tribal governance, higher education, and national advisory service.

Upon graduating from NMSU, he pursued graduate studies at Colorado State University, where he earned a master's degree in animal nutrition and a doctorate in veterinary medicine — becoming only the second Native American graduate of CSU's veterinary program. During his time at CSU, he worked with university leadership to create Native American Student Services and served as its first director.

He returned to New Mexico and founded Loretto Veterinary Clinic, a mixed-animal practice that served rural and tribal communities for more than 35 years. He also served as veterinarian for the New Mexico State Fair for 24 years.

Raymond's many state and national leadership appointments include eight years on the New Mexico Board of Veterinary Medicine through appointments by Governors Bruce King and Gary Johnson. President George W. Bush appointed him to the Valles Caldera Board of Trustees, upon which he served for eight years. He also served 11 years on the University of New Mexico Hospital Board of Trustees through appointment by the All Pueblo Council of Governors.

Raymond participated on the Secretary's Tribal Advisory Committee for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, representing 26 Southwest tribes, and currently serves on the National Institutes of Health Tribal Advisory Committee. He was also appointed by U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Tom Vilsack to the Advisory Board of the National Center for Foreign Animal and Zoonotic Disease Defense.

A three-time governor of the Pueblo of Jemez, Raymond has continuously advocated for improved access to quality health care for Native American and rural communities, provided technical expertise in animal health and livestock management, and helped strengthen relationships between tribal nations, state governments, and federal agencies. ▲