

NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI
COLLEGE OF HEST

**Terra V. Winter, '01, '05, PhD '17,
MCHES, CFRE**



**“Hustle may
open doors,
but empathy
will open
hearts.
Serve your
community
with both to
leave it better
than you found
it.”**

Terra V. Winter '01, '05, Ph.D. '17, president and CEO of the Community Foundation of Southern New Mexico (CFSNM), oversees more than \$62 million in philanthropic assets that benefit 12 counties and has led CFSNM through major emergency-response efforts for wildfires, floods, and the pandemic.

Under her leadership, CFSNM awards have included Nonprofit of the Year from both the Las Cruces Hispanic (2025) and the Las Cruces Greater Chambers of Commerce (2022), and, in 2021, CFSNM was a Philanthropy Award honoree from *Albuquerque Business First*.

Terra's board service includes the New Mexico Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, GroundWorks New Mexico, and the Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance, and she represents Southern New Mexico's nonprofit sector before the state Legislative Finance Committee.

Community service is also central to her family life. She and her husband have raised their two daughters with a commitment to volunteerism, philanthropy, and community service and connection. To this day, their birthdays are about collecting gifts for nonprofits.

Terra completed Leadership New Mexico's Core and Connect programs and received the prestigious Woody and Gayle Hunt Fellowship through the Aspen Leadership Institute. Her honors include the Rotary Club of Las Cruces Don Buck Service Award and inclusion in *Albuquerque Business First's* "40 Under 40" list in 2018.

A fifth-generation New Mexican, Winter credits much of her success to two NMSU mentors, Drs. Anne Hubbell and Walter Zakahi, who guided her through opportunities that shaped her career. Winter maintains close ties to NMSU, having served on both the Presidential and Provost Search Committees and establishing a CFSNM internship program that gives students hands-on nonprofit experience. Looking ahead, Terra is considering entering academia herself to strengthen the pipeline for a new generation of nonprofit leaders by helping students see nonprofit leadership as an intentional career path. ▲