



State of New Mexico Office of the State Auditor

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STATE AUDITOR BRIAN COLÓN JOINS HUNT- KEAN LEADERSHIP FELLOWS COHORT 7

Program develops leaders ready to transform education

ALBUQUERQUE, NM – New Mexico State Auditor Brian Colón has been selected to participate in the seventh cohort of the Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows program, an elite group of national, senior-level policy leaders who have the knowledge, skill, and will to be effective, equity-minded education policymakers at the state level. The program is an initiative of The Hunt Institute, an education policy non-profit founded in 2001 by former North Carolina Governor Jim Hunt (D-NC|1977-1985, 1993-2001).

Auditor Colón will join 29 other senior-level elected officials from across the country in Cohort 7, bringing the total number of Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows to 141, which includes Lt. Governor Howie Morales (Cohort 6), Secretary of State Maggie Toulouse Oliver (Cohort 5), and Attorney General Hector Balderas (Cohort 2) from New Mexico. Fellows represent all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and the program currently boasts six sitting governors: Oregon Governor Kate Brown, Iowa Governor Kim Reynolds, Idaho Governor Brad Little, Michigan Governor Gretchen Whitmer, Mississippi Governor Tate Reeves, and Utah Governor Spencer Cox.

"I am proud to join The Hunt Institute and this esteemed bipartisan group of state policymakers from across the country in learning and fellowship on behalf of our children and their education," said Auditor Colón. "My parents taught me to value the power and importance of education, and as the first in my family to attend college, I am eager to strengthen my ability to effectively support young people across New Mexico in achieving their educational dreams."

The program is named for renowned education Governors Jim Hunt and Tom Kean (R-NJ| 1982-1990), and the Fellows Advisory Board consists of 21 former governors who put education at the

center of their agendas, learned from the practical experiences of other governors, and utilized gubernatorial leadership as a lever to make systemic changes that resulted in improved student achievement.

Governors Hunt and Kean believe that education is the most important investment we can make to strengthen our nation's economy and society. They recognize that senior, state-level policymakers have enormous influence over our complex education system, and that all too often these leaders are required to assume massive responsibilities with limited background in education policy.

“Our vision is to provide policymakers with the core knowledge they need to promote effective education agendas. By investing in America's policymakers, the Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows is building a cadre of informed and motivated educational change agents with the necessary influence to transform state education systems and improve outcomes,” said Dr. Javaid Siddiqi, President & CEO of The Hunt Institute.

For more information about the Hunt-Kean Leadership Fellows, please visit <https://hunt-institute.org/programs/hunt-kean-leadership-fellows-program/>.

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About The Hunt Institute

An affiliate of the Duke University Sanford School of Public Policy, The Hunt Institute is a recognized leader in the movement to transform public education. Marshaling expertise from a nationwide partner network since it was established in 2001, The Institute brings together people and resources that help build and nurture visionary leadership and mobilize strategic action for greater educational outcomes and student success. For more information, please visit: <http://www.hunt-institute.org/>

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