



**Candice Barrera, Executive Director
Regional Education Cooperative #7**

Candice serves as the Executive Director of Regional Education Cooperative #7 (REC #7) in Hobbs, New Mexico. With 29 years of experience in education, she holds a Bachelor of Arts in Education from West Texas A&M University and a Master's in Education from Grand Canyon University. In 2018, she earned her Level 3-B Administrative License.

Her journey began as an elementary classroom teacher, where she dedicated 20 years to shaping young minds. During this time, she expanded her impact by providing professional development on reading strategies to surrounding districts. In 2015, this expertise led her to REC 8, where she worked as a Reading Coach under the Reads to Lead grant. She later took on the role of District Instructional Coach with Carlsbad Schools.

Driven by a deep commitment to the REC, Candice returned as a Regional Dossier Coach and Gifted Teacher before advancing to Deputy Director in 2020.

In 2025, she assumed her current role as Executive Director of REC #7, where she continues to champion educational excellence and collaborative innovation.