

**JILL FERNANDEZ INTERIM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR,
HIGH PLAINS REGIONAL EDUCATION COOPERATIVE #3**



Jill Fernandez is the interim executive director of High Plains REC #3. Jill has contributed to the goals and success of High Plains REC #3 and member districts for almost 20 years. She is a New Mexico Licensed Clinical Social Worker (LCSW) and holds a NMPED Level III licensure as an instructional support provider. She holds both bachelor's and master's degrees in social work. Jill was born and raised in Raton, NM. She received her high school diploma from Raton High School and then obtained her social work degrees from Colorado State University – Pueblo (formerly

the University of Southern Colorado) and New Mexico Highlands. Jill's background in social work and her knowledge of the member districts supports understanding agency policies, budgets, staff and other programs delivering services to a variety of consumers.

Jill brings extensive knowledge of both federal and state special education rules, the MLSS processes, school-based Medicaid, supporting mental health within the school, social and emotional learning, supporting behaviors that impede learning, and supporting professional learning communities. She is a certified senior instructor with The Crisis Prevention Institute and has in-depth knowledge and experience in Positive Behavior Interventions and Supports (PBIS), including experience using data collection applications such as PBISRewards and SWIS (School-wide Information Systems). She is a member of the School Social Worker Association of America and continues to engage in professional learning to support her own education. Jill has attended National Social Work Association, Association of Positive Behavior, School Social Workers Association of America, New Mexico Head to Toe conferences and other State of New Mexico learning opportunities. Jill is also beginning continued education in educational leadership.

Jill believes we are always learning and her personal philosophy of education is rooted in the social work value of "supporting client well-being and self-determination". Jill believes that "paradigm shift" thinking, the essence of seeing things through a different lens has positively influenced her role as an educator working with numerous school districts. If something is not working for a student, a teacher or a system, one must find another tool for support and address the need.

Jill's passion for her work is a direct result of the support she receives from her family and her childhood experiences in Northeastern NM. Jill loves spending time with her husband, James, and their two children.