



Maria L. Jaramillo
Executive Director, Central Region Educational Cooperative (REC 5)
BACKGROUND AND EXPERIENCE

Maria Jaramillo has served as the executive director of the Central Region Educational Cooperative (REC 5) since 2011 and has been a member of CREC's staff since 1993. Originally from England, her professional life began as a speech-language pathologist for school districts, including Carlsbad, Albuquerque, Moriarty-Edgewood, and the six CREC member (traditional) school districts. She also co-owned a private practice, Communication Assessment Services, for eight years, providing speech-language diagnostic services to schools within the Eastern Navajo Agency.

During her tenure at CREC, she served in various support roles, including Child Find, Literacy (DIBELS), and Special Education. She has had the privilege of serving as the NMCEL and RECA President, Chair of the Related Service Advisory Council, and was elected to the national AESA Executive Council to represent the western states. In NM, she also serves as a member of the Deans and Directors of Colleges of Education (NMACTE) and chairs the Coalition of State Supported Education Programs (COSSEP).

The primary role of RECs is to help meet the needs of member school districts by providing access to educational tools and resources, including related services, special education technical assistance, opportunities for academic development, collaborative purchasing, and funding support. In partnership with New Mexico educational leadership, RECs also work to improve student achievement in the state.

Maria and her husband, Gene, have two children and five grandchildren who all live in NM.