

**R. Stephen Aguirre, Executive Director**  
**High Plains Regional Education Cooperative #3**

***Professional Biography***



**EDUCATION**

Licensure – Level III K-12 Administration (New Mexico Highlands University - 1993),  
MA – Guidance & Counseling (Adams State University - 1988),  
MA – Physical Education & Health (Adams State University - 1988),  
BA – Physical Education & Health (Adams State University - 1979),  
AA – Education (Trinidad State Jr College – 1976),  
High School Diploma (La Veta High School, La Veta, Colorado – 1974)

**EDUCATION WORK EXPERIENCE**

High Plains REC (twenty-seven years, executive director), High Plains REC (eight years, associate school psychologist), Raton Middle School (two years, counselor), Collbran, Colorado (two years, teacher)

Association of Education Service Agencies (AESA)  
President (2014), Executive Council (2010 - 2015)

**FAMILY BACKGROUND**

Grandmother, Mother (elementary teachers)

**RECs IN NEW MEXICO**

In my tenure, the REC model and their work have not been familiar to those beyond member districts. Only in the last few years, due to increased IGAs and state-wide work, have the RECs received more exposure to education stakeholders across the state. While strides have been made, I believe that RECs, as a valuable resource to support New Mexico's education goals, remain under-utilized and under-funded. Most RECs rely on entrepreneurial activities to continue to be viable.

I believe that New Mexico has the ability to increase student learning outcomes and rise in its national standing. While there are many ambiguous challenges in education, one clear area of need is teacher professional development and growth. New Mexico is unique in its lack of a continuing education requirement, once licensure is acquired. While this would require legislation, I believe that the conduit for it could be the RECs and their relationships with universities.

**HPREC's VISION**

Our vision, identified in 1998, remains - *Dedicated to Educational Excellence*