

Tohatchi's Edwin 'Ed' Begay seeks for UNM-G Board post

By Elizabeth Hardin-Burrola
Independent correspondent

GALLUP — Candidates for contested seats on the UNM-Gallup Advisory Board were invited to respond to several questions regarding their interest to serve the public on the university board.

Tohatchi resident Edwin "Ed" J. Begay is running for Position 4 on the UNM-Gallup Board. Begay is running against incumbent Olin Kieyoomia, whose responses were published Monday.

The election will be held Nov. 5. Voters will elect members to the UNM-Gallup Advisory Board, the Gallup-McKinley County Schools Board of Education, the Zuni Public School District Board of Education and the McKinley Soil and Water Conservation District.

The following emailed responses are in the candidate's own words.

Name: Edwin "Ed" J. Begay

Occupation: Currently employed with the Navajo Nation Division of Transportation; work experience includes administrative support services, tribal chapter governance, personnel manager at a local bureau funded grant school, and care of elderly parents.

High School: Tohatchi High School, 1985

College degrees: Associates of Arts in Human Services, 2002; currently continuing education toward a Bachelor of Arts in Human Resources Management

Why do you want to serve on the UNM-Gallup Advisory Board?



Edwin Begay

As a former UNM-Gallup Branch Advisory Board member and elected board chair, my interest is to serve the citizens of McKinley County to earn a degree without relocating to Albuquerque. My in-depth experience in higher education and with fiscal matters would benefit a working relationship with the executive director, advisory board colleagues, local community residents and most of all the students.

In what areas do you think UNM-Gallup is doing well?

UNM-Gallup Branch has done well in offering college classes since 1968 for a variety of studies so students can earn a degree in demanding careers such as teaching, nursing, technology, and vocational studies in cosmetology, welding, carpentry, just to name a few. These studies are tools for local residents to take advantage of the opportunities to become successful.

What improvements would you like to see at UNM-Gallup?

UNM-Gallup Branch has unmet needs that have existed over the years such as building renovations, accommodating classes in larger facilities, and creating satellite classes for rural area development since most of the students travel from afar and usually travel during inclement weather conditions. Students are also in need of living facilities such as efficiency apartments, family living and childcare facilities.

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing UNM-Gallup students?

Most of the students travel from a distance and usually travel in inclement weather conditions. Students are also in need of living facilities, such as efficiency and family living apartments, and child care facilities.