

Apel running for seat on UNM-Gallup Board

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.

Local teacher Rebecca “Becky” Apel is running for Position 5 on the UNM-Gallup Advisory Board. Apel’s opponent is incumbent Gerald O’Hara; his responses were published Wednesday.

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: Rebecca “Becky” Apel

Occupation: Level 2 Elementary Teacher

High School: GED, 1980

College degrees:

- Bachelors of Science in Business Management, University of Phoenix, 2008
- Master of Education e-Learning Technology and Design, Jones International University, 2013
- K-8 Elementary Licensure, Santa Fe Community College, 2017
- Teaching English as a Second Language



Becky Apel

endorsement, San Juan Community College, 2018

■ Currently working on Gifted Education endorsement, Central New Mexico University

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

I want to be a part of something that impacts our community. Education can impact everyone’s life. With my degrees and experience as a long-term student that

has attended UNM-Gallup along with many other universities I feel qualified to be an active member on the UNM-Gallup Advisory Board.

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

is doing well in is to engage our youth in attending college and providing opportunities for them to graduate high school with a degree. Attending UNM-Gallup is cost effective.

What improvements would you like to see at UNM-Gallup? I would like to see UNM Gallup provide classes based on our population and workforce including those who may want to make a career change, or to grow in their current career.

What do you think is the biggest challenge facing UNM-Gallup students? I think UNM Gallup students’ biggest challenge may be accessing courses they need at the times they need along with the number of higher-level courses they may need may not be offered at UNM-Gallup.