

# **JORJA ARMIJO BRASHER**

Manager, Division of Child and Family Development  
Department of Family and Community Services, City of Albuquerque

## **Education:**

Course work for Ph.D. in Educational Supervision, University of New Mexico (UNM), 1983–1988

Certificate in Educational Administration and Curriculum, University of New Mexico, 1988

M.A. Elementary Education, Early Childhood Education. University of New Mexico, 1976

B.S. Elementary Education. Minor in Art Education. University of New Mexico, 1969

## **Present Position**

1989–present, Manager, Division of Child and Family Development, Department of Family and Community Services, City of Albuquerque, NM

I started as the Program Director in 1989 for Comprehensive Child Development Program (CCDP), which developed the basis for the National Early Head Start Program in 1997. I supervise a staff of 160 City employees and manage all program facilities and equipment.

Since 1988 I have been responsible for obtaining funds for this federal national research project assisting low income families working toward self sufficiency. This program has established programs for families with children from prenatal to 17 years old.

I am responsible for the management of 19 Albuquerque Public Schools/City of Albuquerque Collaborative Child Development Centers and 8 child development centers in collaboration with other community agencies. I have developed interagency agreements in the program's core areas (child development, adult education, parenting, health, employment, job training, housing, counseling).

I direct budget development several divisions including the 0-3 years old Early Head Start, 3-5 year olds Child Development Program, Teen Parent Residence Program, GRADS Program for high school teen parents. I serve as a Representative for the City of Albuquerque on issues of children and families on the national, state and local levels. My duties include grantsmanship for creating new opportunities for family and child development programs and the development of Policies and Procedures for program and division management.

## **Professional Experience**

2006–present. Member of the Leadership for Ready School Teams, sponsored by the New Mexico Community Foundation through a Kellogg Foundation Grant.

2003–present. New Mexico Supporting Partnerships to Assure Ready Kids (SPARK), Board Member of the Local Council, Albuquerque.

1990–present. Committee Member, Childcare Collaborative, Albuquerque Public Schools (APS).

2005–2008. New Mexico Head Start Board Member.

2006–2007. Co-chair, “Zero to Three” 21st National Training Institute, Albuquerque, NM. Organized the event for the first time in New Mexico which focused on Brain Development, Early Learning and Experiences for young children.

1988–1989. Early Childhood Resource Teacher, Albuquerque Public Schools Curriculum Center, I was the Supervisor of the Albuquerque Public Schools Early Childhood programs; responsible for Curriculum Planning and Development; presented professional development workshops and seminars.

1986–1988. Peer Support Teacher, Albuquerque Public Schools/University of New Mexico Teacher Enhancement Program. I was chosen by APS to complete a two year program in Teacher Development at UNM.

1985–1986. Teacher, Albuquerque Public Schools, Monte Vista Elementary Schools, Albuquerque (first and second grades).

1970–1985. Kindergarten Teacher, Albuquerque Public Schools, Duranes Elementary School, Albuquerque.

1970–1983. Teacher, Manderfield Elementary School, Santa Fe Public Schools (second grade, Follow-through Program, Tucson Model).

### **Professional Organizations and Task Forces**

2001 – present. Member, Albuquerque Public Schools Early Childhood Collaboration, Board member, local SPARK Project. This program joins hands with parents, schools and other agencies to prepare children for success in school.

2000–present. Member, State Office of Child Development Early Childhood Interagency Action Team

1990–1991. Member, Job Corps Infant Care Steering Committee.

1989–1990. Member, Governor’s Task Force for Children, Youth, and Families, Vice-President, New Mexico Consortium for Young Children.

1988–1989. Chairperson of Community Connections Committee. Senator Jeff Bingaman’s Pre-School Task Force, Member of Policy, Quality Standards, Legislative Update, and Strategies Committees.

1988–1989. Member, Governor’s Child Care Task Force. Prepared studies for the training and licensure for adults working with young children.

1988–1989. President, NM Association for the Education of Young Children.

1987–1988. Vice-President, NM Association for the Education of Young Children.

1985–1987. Chairperson, State Convention, New Mexico Association for the Education of Young Children (NMAEYC); Workshop Coordinator.

1986. Coordinator, Search Committee, APS/UNM Teacher Career Renewal Program

1986–1988. Member, Phi Delta Kappa Educational Fraternity.

1985–1986. Board Member, Mary Ann Binford Foundation, A foundation for scholarships for college students in Early Childhood Education.

1985. Teaching Assistant, UNM, Early Childhood Seminar.

1985. Member, Clinical Supervisor Interviewing Committee.

1983. Member, North Central Accreditation Association Evaluation Team, Isleta Pueblo.

1970 –1983. Cooperating Teacher, APS/UNM, Early Childhood Teacher.

1981–1983. Special Education and Early Development Program.

1982–1983. Member, APS Early Childhood Curriculum Guide Review Committee and School Improvement Network.

1982–1986. Member, Pius X High School Alumni Board of Directors.

- 1981–1982. On-site Supervisor, UNM Work-Study Program, Teacher Representative, Parent Involvement Team, Duranes Elementary School, Albuquerque, NM.  
1979–1975. On-site Supervisor, Valley High School Career Education Program.  
1968. Teacher, English as a Second Language, La Barca, Mexico, Summer.

### **Presentations at Professional Meetings.**

- City of Albuquerque, Early Head Start Parent Conference Presenter, 2008.  
Albuquerque Public Schools Early Childhood Liaison Conference, 2007, 2008.  
Albuquerque Business Education Compact, 2004.  
Region VI Head Start Annual Conference, Presentation on Home visits and Parent Relationships, Albuquerque, 2000.  
Family Support America Regional Conference, Denver, CO, 1997.  
NM State Dept. of Education, Interagencies Collaboration, 1991.  
NMAEYC State Convention, “Comprehensive Child Development Program: Shared Goals and Collaboration,” 1991.  
Experimental Education Annual Conference, Santa Fe, NM, “You Are the Future,” 1989.  
Press Conferences for Senator Jeff Bingaman’s Pre-School Task Force; Roswell, Las Cruces, Alamogordo, and Albuquerque, 1989.  
Opening Address, Community Connections Workshops, Senator Jeff Bingaman’s Pre-School Task Force, 1989.  
Annual Meeting of the Association of Teacher Educators “Renewal Through Empowerment: An Enhancement Program for Mid-Career Teachers,” San Diego, CA, 1988.  
Opening Address, Initial Meeting of the APS/UNM Teacher Enhancement Program, 1988.  
“Teachers’ Voices-New Mexico Style.” The Wingspread Conference, North Dakota Study Group, Racine, Wisconsin, 1987.  
Workshops on Clinical Supervision, Laguna Pueblo, 1985.  
Cooperating Teacher Meetings, APS/UNM, 1984, 1985.  
Four Corners Inservice Training Conference for Teachers and Administrators, 1984.  
NMAEYC Convention, 1983.

### **Publications:**

- Co-editor and Coordinator, Albuquerque Public Schools Early Childhood Curriculum Guide, 1989.  
Armijo Brasher, Jorja et al. “On Restoring Dignity to the Profession: Teachers’ Voices.” *The Journal of the Connecticut Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development*. September 1987.  
Director-Producer, “Duranes Kindergarten SEED Program Presents Stone Soup,” Videotape, 1983.

### **Volunteer Activities**

- 1991–Present. Weekly Radio Host, “Concerning New Mexico,” a weekly radio program. KANW. National Public Radio. Interviews with prominent New Mexico politicians, writers and academics.  
1996–1998. New Mexico First-Youth Town Hall.  
1996–1998. Board Meetings, Celebrate Youth, a non-profit organization for youth leadership opportunities.  
1996–1998. Welfare Reform Working Committee - I was appointed by State Sen. Elizabeth Staphanics.  
1996–1998. Human Services Committee, and Employment Training and Development Committee.  
1996–1998. Governor’s Blue Ribbon Task Force on Mental Health and the Criminal Justice System.  
1995–1996. New Mexico First Chair, NM First Town Hall on Crime, Corrections and the Law.

- 1991–1998. Chair, Home Visiting Committee, “Success by Six,” New Mexico Advocates for children.
- 1992–1996. Coordinator, Albuquerque Partners in Change Project. New Mexico CYFD Office of Child Development. Project Co-founder. Zero to Three, Heart Start New Mexico. National Center for Clinical Infant Programs.
- 1992–1996. Facilitator, Head Start Transition Program, New Mexico Children, Youth and Families. I established a career development program for early childhood education students and providers at TV-I for City of Albuquerque Office of Child Development staff and other agencies and CCDP program families to acquire early childhood education certificates (CDA, Early Childhood Associates Degree)

### **Training/Professional Development**

- Certified Trainer, Mind in the Making Institute, Albuquerque, 2007.
- Advanced Management Certificate, Robert O. Anderson School of Management, University of New Mexico, November 1996.
- Certificate in Grant Writing, Zolcklein Associates, Albuquerque, NM, September 1996.

### **Awards and Recognitions**

- “Outstanding New Mexico Woman Governor’s Award,” NM Commission on the Status of Women, 2008.
- “You Shine Award,” NM Association for the Education of Young Children, 2007.
- “Distinguished Graduate Award,” St. Charles Borromeo School, Albuquerque, 2001.