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## DO YOU HAVE A PLAYLIST?

**Bianca Ortiz-Wertheim**  
**Cabinet Secretary**  
**New Mexico Department of**  
**Homeland Security and**  
**Emergency Management (DHSEM)**



**How has NEMA inspired you as a new director?** Having managed various organizations, I have come to learn the importance of onboarding. NEMA and the DHSEM team was very helpful in my onboarding process. The leadership, members, and other partners were accessible to me for my questions and for guidance. We are all in this together, and the NEMA community was instrumental in my feeling like I was part of the family. I am grateful to NEMA for their focus on state needs. We are all unique and NEMA helps amplify our message when we think policies need to change.

**What was a shining moment for your team during the past year that made you the proudest?** It's hard to single out a standalone moment in a year that has presented so many hurdles and challenges for my team and our communities. Predictably, they rose to the occasion to **come together and create solutions in a calm, intelligent, and professional manner**. One major highlight was DHSEMs incredible response to our tribal communities. Tribal consultation and coordination ruled the day. This allowed our team to respond quickly to the needs of our communities with expertise and compassion. This included distributing PPE, food, water, and supplies. Ultimately, I would say that it was our team's deeply felt compassion for our state and respect for each other that was at the heart of so many of the things we were able to accomplish this year.

**Over two decades of public service with a blend of legislative experience sprinkled with non-profit leadership roles, what was the best lesson in government relations that helps you in your current role?** Strong relationships are critical. We are a tightly connected community. Problem solving and troubleshooting has been a big part of my career. I think I am pretty good at connecting the dots and matching resources to communities – whether that is through my knowledge of people, businesses, organizations, etc. The legislative process can sometimes seem like a black box. Having worked on the hill as a chief of staff in the senate, my advice: always keep in mind that you are working with fellow public servants. We all want the best for our people.

**During your appointment announcement, your Governor kindly referred to your love for New Mexico. What is your favorite thing of your home state?** You are kidding, right? I can't pick one! Our people. We are friendly, compassionate, smart and creative. The Albuquerque Isotopes – Go Topes! They are our baseball team in New Mexico. New Mexico food is unmatched. Our red chile and green chile make every dish special. New Mexico skies and vistas are stunning. The colors explode and use every surface as their canvas – mountains, canyon walls, clouds and the horizon. The colors are so intense that they can seem fictional.

**What recent trend are you totally on board with? Playlists!** They are the modern-day version of a "mixed-tape". Our department created our own playlist to stay motivated. **Go to Spotify and download Team NM DHSEM – it's awesome.**

**We live in a world in which we need to share responsibility. It's easy to say "It's not my child, not my community, not my world, not my problem." Then there are those who see the need and respond. I consider those people my heroes. - Fred Rogers**



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