



Press Release

Senator William Soules, Chairman

Vanessa Hawker, Acting Director

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Legislative Education Study Committee Names Director

SANTA FE – A deputy secretary of the Public Education Department has been selected as the new director of the Legislative Education Study Committee, the committee announced today.

Gwen Perea Warniment, Ph.D., currently PED deputy secretary for teaching, learning, and assessment, is scheduled to take over as LESC director in late May or early June, said Sen. Bill Soules, LESC chairman.

“Dr. Warniment is exceedingly qualified and committed to the education system and children of New Mexico,” he said. “She knows the schools, as a former student, a parent, and an administrator, and understands the challenges and successes of educating our students.”

Warniment, a former program director for the Los Alamos National Laboratory Foundation working on science education and other initiatives, earned a bachelor’s degree in English and Spanish from the University of New Mexico, a master’s degree in education with a specialty in reading from Highlands, and a doctorate in curriculum and instruction with a specialty in science, technology, education and math (STEM) education from New Mexico State University. She has served on the adjunct faculty at New Mexico Highlands University and NMSU and was an instructional coach and teacher in Los Alamos and Santa Fe public schools.

As a deputy secretary at PED, she manages a \$250 million budget and 80 staff in the areas educator quality, assessments, and curriculum and instruction. She has worked on developing the statewide public schools budget, public prekindergarten, and the pandemic safety and school re-entry plans.

“I’m thrilled,” Warniment said after the announcement. “I’m excited to work for the committee and, with them, toward improving education for New Mexico’s children.”

“Dr. Warniment will be a powerful asset for the committee and its staff. Her deep knowledge of New Mexico education and fresh ideas will be benefit to the committee and the people of New Mexico,” Soules said.