

## **Biography: Tracy Hartzler**

Tracy Hartzler has served the public sector for more than 25 years in education, government, and policy roles. Her efforts in the Midwest, Washington, D.C., and New Mexico have significantly increased access to education, training and workforce development and established building blocks for long-term economic stability.

For the last 8 years, Tracy has played a significant role in shaping postsecondary education in New Mexico, first with the New Mexico Legislative Finance Committee, and later with Central New Mexico (CNM) Community College. At the Legislative Finance Committee, Tracy served as the Legislature's expert on higher education policy and funding, where she led the annual statewide higher education budget and policy initiatives. In this role, she participated in a major revision of the state's institutional funding formula, staffed program and funding changes to the Legislative Lottery Scholarship Program and expanded a statewide healthcare workforce initiative. She worked closely with legislative and executive agency staff on capital projects, compensation, and workforce training requests. Furthering this work, she served on national policy teams and student success advocacy groups, helping public officials implement best practices and policies.

More recently, Tracy turned her national and statewide expertise in service of residents in central New Mexico, currently as the Vice President of Finance and Operations at CNM and Treasurer for CNM Ingenuity and the CNM Foundation. She has held various positions at the College, overseeing budgeting and finance, strategic planning, accreditation and research, human resources, facilities, information technology, and other operational and support functions. She worked closely with President Katharine Winograd and the leadership team to maintain financial stability during uncertain fiscal times and declining enrollments.

As one of the state's largest institutions, CNM plays an important role in New Mexico. Tracy represents all higher education institutions as the Governor's appointee to the New Mexico State Investment Council. She serves as the community college member on the state's Complete College America team, advocating for policies that improve student retention and completion. She also represents CNM as a founding partner in the multi-community college effort to improve institutional administration and technology systems.

As a Special Assistant Attorney General at the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission and as Counsel to the U.S. Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, Tracy helped local, tribal, state and federal government elected and appointed leaders and community advocates solve complex problems. She drafted and led federal legislative efforts to improve health care, housing and education for tribal members and aid tribal self-determination efforts. Working effectively across political lines, she furthered legislation to resolve and fund historic land and water disputes in many western states, including New Mexico.

Tracy's early career reflects her commitment to serving others as she worked with parents, school and agency administrators to help students attend and graduate from high school and college programs. She expanded a mentoring and scholarship program for historically-marginalized high school students. As an urban, Catholic high school development director, she raised annual funds and led a capital campaign to build a multi-use school and community facility. Tracy earned her Bachelor of Arts from St. Mary's College in Notre Dame, Indiana. Focusing on financial aid and public policy, she earned her Masters of

Education from the Curry School of Education at the University of Virginia. As she earned her Juris Doctorate from the Columbus School of Law at the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., Tracy drafted college policies on student records and pieces on academic freedom and other civil rights matters for the Law of Higher Education (4th Edition). She is a member of the New Mexico, Indiana (inactive), and District of Columbia Bars.