

To: New Mexico PRC Nominating Committee

From: Representative D. Wonda Johnson

Re: Letter of Interest

Date: September 11, 2026

It is with great interest that I am submitting this Letter of Interest for the position of New Mexico Public Regulatory Commissioner.

I hold a bachelor's degree from Marymount University, Falls Church, Virginia in Business and Communications, earned in 2009. Since that time, I am now serving my 6th term as New Mexico State Representative in House District 5: McKinley and San Juan Counties. I serve east Gallup, and 15 Navajo Chapters in McKinley and San Juan Counties. As a legislator, I now serve as Chairwoman of House Government, Elections and Indian Affairs (HGEIA) and have done so for the last three terms. Before serving as Chair of HGEIA I served as House Democratic Caucus Chair for two terms.

During my six terms as a Democratic legislator, I served on the following committees: Military and Veterans Committee, New Mexico Finance Authority Oversight Committee, Radioactive and Hazardous Materials Committee, Water and Natural Resources Committee and Ethics Committee to mention a few. In the six years, I have also served as Advisory to various committees such as Land Grant Committee and Mortgage Finance Authority Act Oversight Committee.

As a lifelong resident of northwest New Mexico (McKinley County) with a home site in Springstead on the reservation this affords me the experience of living both in the City of Gallup and attending to my home site in a rural environment. I have a very strong commitment to serving my district and working to provide my constituents with equitable guidance for utilities, telecommunications and infrastructure. In my years as legislator my priorities have been not only to develop new waterlines, powerlines, broadband extensions and expansions and repairs to roads and bridges; the most basic needs of our rural communities.

With confidence, I submit this letter of interest, as I feel that I would be a strong asset to the NM PRC and have the ability to work within the parameters of the NM PRC Goals and Mission.



DOREEN WONDA JOHNSON

Church Rock, New Mexico,

OBJECTIVE

Seeking a full-time position to leverage my work experience and education in meaningful field of community development, project/program management and grant management.

EDUCATION

Marymount University

Bachelors of Arts Degree, Liberal Arts: Business & Communications, 2009

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

State Representative

New Mexico State Legislature

January 2014 – Present

- Serving 6 terms, 12 years in House District 5, McKinley and San Juan Counties.
- Serve as Chairwoman of State Government, Elections and Indian Affairs for 3 terms.
- Serve as Chairwoman and Vice Chairwoman of Interim Indian Affairs Committee for 6 terms, alternating leadership.
- Served as New Mexico State Democratic Legislative Caucus Chair for 2 terms, elected by democratic Legislative body.
- Serve on various standing committees to review and create laws, review and manage the state budget while allocating and earmarking budgets for House District 5 and the State of New Mexico.
- Advocate for local House District 5, surrounding neighbors, the State of New Mexico, region and national level to discuss proposed laws, review bills and listen to the public.
- Advocate on behalf of local residents, State agencies, tribal and other entities to ensure constituent services.

Patient Experience & Cultural Affairs Liaison

Rehoboth McKinley Christian Health Care Services

August 2018 – Present

- Perform various executive duties in a confidential and professional manner.
- Serve as a liaison and advocate between patients, their families, the hospital staff, and physicians in the resolution of patient concerns.
- Serve as intermediary to Hospital Administration CEO on behalf of patients and families.
- Maintain all hospital “grievances” in a timely manner to assure the safety and availability to any auditing agency or appropriate staff administration.
- Collect and present data regarding patient and family satisfaction with services to enhance the Hospital’s performance improvement efforts.

- Provide oversight of RMCHCS Auxiliary activities and membership for the organization.
- Provide oversee RMCHCS Auxiliary retail operations to include Gift Shop, Coffee Cart and regular standing meetings.
- Recruit volunteers to support and join the RMCHCS Auxiliary to provide support at the courtesy desk, main lobby and waiting areas, etc.

Program Director/Case Manager

CARE 66

August 2017 – April 2018

- Coordinated case management services by providing overall program management, program compliance, new program development and strategic planning for residential aide staff oversight and clients.
- Conducted daily administrative duties pertaining to the Veterans Grant Per Diem, HUD VASH and Gallup Housing Authority programs.
- Coordinated referrals and follow up case management with local stake holders and multiple service provider agencies to ensure case management, housing services and life skills programing.
- Facilitated community outreach to develop relationships with local stakeholders to benefit the program; fund raising efforts to support the board and the organization.
- Facilitated staff and residential meetings to ensure professional development, life skills, work duty post collaboration, and to promote consistent protocols, and trainings to ensure advocacy and residential services.

Program Manager/Victim Advocate

Sexual Assault Services of Northwest New Mexico

July 2016 – August 2017

- Coordinated rape crisis advocacy services by providing overall program management, program compliance, new program development and strategic planning by developing Gallup Office.
- Searched and opened satellite office in downtown Gallup; received 40 hours training to serve as victim advocate, and learned about prevention resources.
- Coordinated referrals and responses with District Attorney's Office and multiple service provider agencies to ensure advocacy, prevention and counseling services.
- Facilitated community outreach to develop relationships with local stake holders to benefit the office by providing media outreach, presentations, and education activities; provided in-service trainings to law enforcement, DA's Office, local, state and tribal agencies, Chapter government officials, staff and community.
- Facilitated and attended meetings and conferences to ensure professional development, collaboration, and to promote consistent protocols, and trainings to ensure advocacy and counseling services.

WJ Consulting Services

Navajo Nation Head Start Consulting, Window Rock, AZ

January 2016 – April 2016

- Provided consulting services; facilitating stakeholder meetings; providing technical assistance to local administrative head start centers, and drafting reports on behalf of the Navajo Nation Head Start Superintendent to distribute to various departments.

Indian Education Coordinator

Gallup McKinley County School District, Gallup, NM

April 2015 – December 2015

- Implemented the Johnson O'Malley grant requirements to organize projects and provide funds for students who need assistance to attend Gallup McKinley County Schools successfully.
- Facilitated Indian Education Parent Committee meetings to plan and coordinate Education related activities for students in accordance with the JOM grant.
- Conducted all budget tracking and expenditures, coordinated budget work with accounts payable and accounts receivable, worked with the Navajo Nation JOM Office to follow all grant requirements.

WJ Consulting Services

Navajo Nation Head Start, Window Rock, AZ

January 2015 – April 2015

- Provided consulting services to serve as support staff to the office of the Navajo Nation Head Start Human Resource staff by assisting with report writing, transition plan and attending meetings.
- Provided consulting services by attending stakeholder meetings, and providing technical assistance, and providing reports to other departments on behalf of the Navajo Nation Head Start Superintendent.

WJ Consulting Services

EPICS, Albuquerque, NM

January 2014 – December 2014

- Provided consulting services to organize and coordinate the annual EPICS conference.
- Work in collaboration with the executive director, staff, board members, volunteers, vendors, and service providers to coordinate all activities in order to execute conference planning.
- Provided services to design, plan and execute four-day education conference for 300 attendees from the education community.
- Work duties included securing accounts for hotel and meal venue, workshop schedules, ancillary activities and all registration details and accounting.
- Conducted all on-site support and close out reports to the EPICS board.

Executive Staff Assistant

The Navajo Nation Office of the President and Vice President

Window Rock, Arizona

August 2011 – December 2013

- Serve as Executive Staff Assistant to the Navajo Nation President and Vice President by serving as a liaison between the Navajo Nation and various international, national, regional, state and local entities.
- Provide support to assigned divisions in planning, organizing, directing and evaluating projects, programs and departments.
- Draft and finalize documents for the President and Vice President's signature. Manage appropriate correspondence, administrative reports and project reports.
- Communicate and interact with national, state and local standing committees, local chapters, entities, and community members regarding constituent services, initiatives and projects.

- Provide technical assistance to division programs and projects; researched and analyzed legislation in the states of Arizona, New Mexico and Utah that affect the Nation.
- Served as lead planner in the accomplishment of President and Vice President platform by producing the following specific projects such as the 1) 2011 Navajo Nation Scholarship Gala Fund Raiser, 2) 2011 and 2012 Running for a Stronger, Healthier Navajo Nation, 3) 2012 Tribal Leader's Summit on the Declaration, 4) 2012 National Indian Health Board 40th Celebration Awards Banquet and Social Powwow. 5) Advance ED Conference (workshop evaluation)

Convention and Events Director

National Indian Education Association

Washington, D.C.

March 2004 – 2011

- Directed all activities related to special events, board meetings, legislative summits and annual conventions on behalf of 3,000+ membership base organization to provide Indian Education advocacy, policies, and recommendations through planning, designing, implementing, and evaluating special events and conferences.
- Management of board of directors, local planning committee(s), convention and visitor bureau and hospitality logistics and agreements, communications and marketing plans and activities.
- Finalize scope of work and budget management agreements, tradeshow management and sponsorship development.
- Engage association member in sponsorship development, tradeshow vendor relations, targeted vendor public relations and association marketing projects, special events/meetings and convention planning, legislative summit planning and operational and office management.
- Manage overall convention budget in the amount of \$400,000 per convention and oversight of five staff and 100 on-site volunteers and 25 city wide venue staff; reporting of all revenue(s) and expenditure(s).
- Manage operations of annual goals and performance objectives in fulfillment of the organization's mission and purposes.
- Provided legislative and administrative support to the Executive Director and NIEA Board of Directors by designing, planning, coordinating, executing, evaluating and reporting special projects and special events in collaboration with national, regional and local education school boards, tribal governments, state governments and other education organizations.

Consultant

National Indian Health Board

Washington, D.C.

October 2003 – March 2004

- Researched and analyzed impacts of pending authorizations and appropriations on American Indian and Alaska Native Health issues (AI/AN).
- Developed direct and timely communication with tribal governments regarding legislative and regulatory tracking on AI/AN Health issues.
- Project management in areas of tribal advocacy, program development and assessments; grant training and technical assistance programs.

Intergovernmental Liaison and Community Coordinator

Office of the Arizona State Governor

Phoenix, Arizona

February 1992 – March 2003

- Served under three consecutive Governors, both Republican and Democratic, in developing strategies for grant acquisition(s) and implementation designed to address specific problems in local communities, as identified by executive branch offices, citizen committees, public agencies, and the legislature.
- Served as the primary liaison between the Governor's Community Policy Office Granting Divisions and communities in Pinal, Gila, and Eastern Maricopa Counties.
- Facilitated community planning and capacity building entailing identification and prioritization of local assets, community needs, and strategy development.
- Conducted grant compliance monitoring, programmatic and fiscal onsite visits to ensure compliance with the terms of the Federal and State budget policies.
- Drafted grant contracts and Intergovernmental Service Agreements for the Governor's Granting Divisions, School Districts and Tribal Governments.

CONSULTATION (S)

Provide direct on-site community development and technical assistance service to implement national convention expertise, including project management, design, planning, and budget forecasting, implementing, evaluation, and closeout survey and function reports. Provide convention site inspection and feasibility study. Supervise and provide leadership to over 100 local planning committee volunteers to assemble and coordinate educational, training and ancillary convention venue. Prior experience includes:

- 2004 Phoenix Local Planning Committee, AZ
- 2005 Denver Indian Center--- Denver Local Planning Committee, Denver, CO
- 2006 Anchorage/Cook Inlet Tribal Council--- Anchorage Local Planning Committee, Anchorage, Alaska
- 2007 Kamehameha School ---Hawaii Local Planning Committee, Honolulu, HI
- 2008 United Indians of all Tribes ---Seattle Local Planning Committee, Seattle, WA
- 2009 University of Wisconsin---Milwaukee Local Planning Committee, Milwaukee, WI
- 2010 Planner, Southern California Tribal Chairmen's Association--- San Diego Local Planning Committee, San Diego, CA
- 2011 All Indian Pueblo Council (Education Committee) Albuquerque Local Planning Committee, Albuquerque, NM
- 2012 Oklahoma Council for Indian Education---Oklahoma Local Planning Committee, Oklahoma City, OK
- 2013 Oglala Lakota Nation Education Coalition---Rapid City Local Planning Committee, Rapid City, SD
- 2014 South Central Foundation Tribal Services--- Anchorage Local Planning Committee, Anchorage, AK
- 2015 State of Nevada Indian Commission – Reno Local Planning Committee, Reno Sparks, NV
- 2015 Portland Local Planning Committee, Portland, OR
- 2015 Nashville Local Planning Committee, Nashville, TN
- 2015 Palm Springs Local Planning Committee, Palm Springs, CA
- 2019 Original Founders of NIEA, Twin Cities St Paul Minneapolis, Minneapolis, MN (pre-planning for 2019 event)

CERTIFICATES and TRAINING

Navajo Language Medical Terminology Certification

40 Hours in Class Training, *2025 Completed*

Victim Advocate Training

40 Hours in Class Training (October/November 2016)

Sexual Assault Services of Northwest New Mexico

Grants and Contracts Development and Administration

Grants Management Certificate Program "Pass---Through Track"

Management Concepts, *2002 Completed*

Nonprofit and Contracts Development

June 2011 Board Development Seminar, *Completed.*

April 2011 Program Evaluation Seminar, *Completed.*

January 2011 Volunteer Management Seminar, *Completed.*

November 2010 Nonprofit Financial Statements Seminar, *Completed.*

September 2010 High Performing Boards Seminar, *Completed.*

Community Service

Volunteer, Arlington Food Bank, Arlington, VA

Judge, Miss Indian World Pageant 2007, Albuquerque, New Mexico

SERVICE MEMBERSHIP

- *Present* – 6th Term, New Mexico State Representative, House District 5, McKinley & San Juan Counties (serving East Gallup and 19 Chapters in Eastern Navajo Agency) Majority House Caucus Chairwoman
Ethics and Rules Co-Chairwoman
- *Present* Vice Chairwoman, Church Rock Chapter Community Land Use Planning Committee, Church Rock, NM
- *Present* Advisory Board Member, Octavia Fellin Public Library, Gallup, NM
- *Present* Advisory Board Member, Four Corners Recovery, Gallup, NM
- *Present* Member, Gallup Lions Club
- *Present* Member, Gallup Kiwanis
- *Present* Member, Gallup Chamber of Commerce
- *Present* Member, Women In Government, WD
- League of Women Voters, Falls Church Chapter, Northern VA Democratic Women of New Mexico, Albuquerque, NM
- Center for Association Leadership, WDC State Society of Arizona, WDC
- Professional Convention Management Association (Capitol Chapter Education Committee) Association of Meeting Professionals, WDC
- Alumni, Valley Leadership Class XX Leadership Institute, Phoenix, AZ

HONORS

National Miss Indian America, Bismarck, North Dakota

September 1989 – September 1990

- Served as a Native American Ambassador, role model, advocate and mentor. Promoted public awareness surrounding social, educational, and economic issues pertaining to Native American communities and cross-cultural education issues while traveling throughout North America and Europe.

REFERENCES (provided upon request)
