



AUGUST 2024

# ERB Connect

*The latest news from the New Mexico Educational Retirement Board*



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*Above: The new ERB business complex at the framing stage on 07-16-2024.*



## Director's Update

BY DAVID ARCHULETA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Members,

First, I am excited to share news regarding our investment performance through the period ending June 30, 2024. Our Trust Fund balance reached a new high of \$17.1 billion supported by an 8.64% one-year return, which exceeded our actuarial target return of 7%. In fact, the Trust Fund has surpassed the actuarial target in most periods, consistently performing in the top 10% in the peer group on a risk-adjusted basis.

Second, we are making good progress on the construction of a new office facility and it is expected to be at substantial completion by January 2025, with a move in date sometime in the spring. The new building will allow for the consolidation of resources, a reduction in leased office space, at an easily accessible location for members traveling to Santa Fe. An official opening will be

*Director's Update continued on Page 2*

announced after a certificate of occupancy is issued for the project.



Also, I am pleased to share that Dr. Reilly White has been appointed to the Educational Retirement Board to represent the American Association of University Professors. Dr. White is the Associate Dean of Teaching and Learning and a tenured Associate Professor of Finance at the University of New Mexico Anderson School of Management. Dr. White is also Director for the \$5.2 million student-run UNM Regent's Portfolio and leads a series of financial literacy projects in the community. Prior to his career in academia, Dr. White worked as an analyst of a large Boston-based bank, where he learned a great deal about company analysis, funding and maintaining ethical corporate leadership. Dr. White was appointed to succeed Dr. Don Duszinsky, who served on the Board of Trustees for eight years.

*Pictured above - Dr. Reilly White;*

*Pictured right -*

*Seated: Russell Goff; Standing from left: State Treasurer Laura M. Montoya, Dr. Duszinsky, Governor Appointee Max Baca, Secretary Larry Magid, and American Federation of Teachers New Mexico Representative Matías Fontenla;*



Lastly, I would like to remind our retirees who might be considering a return-to-work opportunity, to submit a Return-to-Work application and obtain approval from ERB prior to resuming employment. ERB approval of return-to-work arrangements is required by law and intended to safeguard the program against infractions that may result in IRS penalties or jeopardize our tax-exempt status.

As always, your contributions to the educational system in New Mexico and beyond are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,  
David Archuleta





## **Congratulations to Our Dedicated Retirees!**

BY COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

A lifetime of hard work and dedication has led to this well-deserved milestone. We extend our sincerest appreciation and gratitude to all our recent retirees for your invaluable contributions to the state of New Mexico and the future generations of our state. Please know you made a positive difference in the lives of our children.

As you embark on this exciting new chapter, we wish you abundant happiness, relaxation, and exciting adventures. Enjoy your retirement to the fullest!

Happy  
retirement!





# BENEFICIARY

## **Beneficiary Basics - How your contributions/retirement get passed to loved ones after you pass away?**

BY MEMBER SERVICES

What is a beneficiary? A beneficiary is a person (or a supplemental needs trust) the member selects to receive the benefits of the member's retirement account after they die.

It's your benefit; make sure it's going to the right place. If you fail to submit a valid beneficiary designation form, benefits payable upon your death will be paid to your surviving spouse or domestic partner, or if one does not exist, a one-time lump sum payment will be made to your estate. Proof of marital status or domestic partnership is required.

One advantage of the plan administered by ERB is that the benefit continues to pay your beneficiary upon death without having to probate your will. If you do not name a valid beneficiary, or your beneficiary passes away before you have updated your beneficiary, ERB will pay the death benefit to your estate in lump sum. By designating your beneficiary, you can ensure that they can receive the maximum benefit that ERB will pay on your account.

Minor children or someone with special needs are eligible to be named as a beneficiary. Please consult a tax or legal professional if you have any questions regarding these options.

It is a good idea to periodically check your beneficiary designations, especially after major life events such as marriage, divorce, birth of a child or adoption, or loss of a loved one that was a named beneficiary.

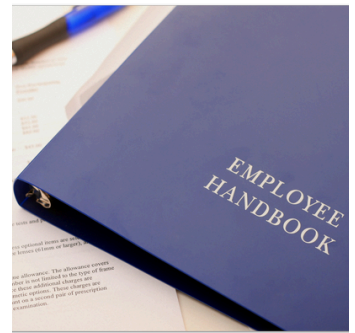
Remember to leave your legacy as you intended; be sure to assign a beneficiary(s) to your account so your assets will pass on to your loved ones when they need it the most.

# DEFINED BENEFIT PLAN NEW HIRE GUIDE

Welcome to ERB! As a new hire and new ERB Member, we would like to share information that will be of use to you throughout your ERB Membership.

## ERB's Responsibility

Our mission is to provide secure retirement benefits for New Mexico's educational employees - past, present, and future.



## Defined Benefit Plan as a Secure Gateway to Retirement

ERB membership is mandatory for eligible employees working more than 0.25 Full-Time Equivalent (FTE). This means that by being a part of ERB, you are taking a crucial step towards securing your financial future. While membership is a condition of your employment, it is also a gateway to financial security in your golden years.

## Three Steps to Getting More Out of Your Retirement

When it comes to retirement planning, ERB is here to support you throughout your entire career journey. We recommend you take the following steps to get the most out of your membership:

1) Use the [ERB website](http://www.erb.nm.gov) as a tool to answer general questions, find forms, and read the [Member Handbook](#) to learn about your options and the guidelines of the Defined Benefit Plan.

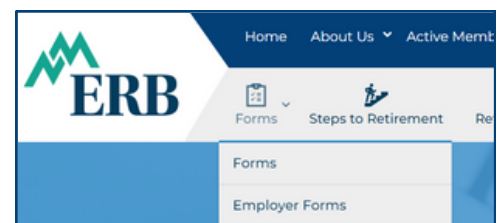
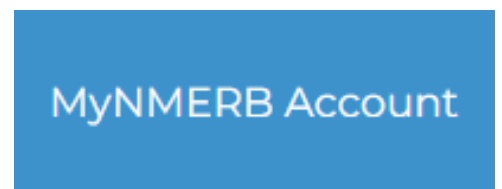


[www.erb.nm.gov](http://www.erb.nm.gov)

2) Create your Member Portal login and credentials so you can access your MyNMERB Account. Once in the Member Portal, you will be able to:

- View and verify that your name, address, and contact information are correct.
- View your work history and statement of account.
- Access calculators to estimate benefits and service credit purchases.

3) Complete and submit your pre-retirement beneficiary designation form.



# Note of Change - New Phone Numbers, NMAC Rules, and the Webinar Platform

BY RENEE GARCIA, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

***“The only constant  
in life is change”  
– Heraclitus***

Exciting changes have come to ERB, beginning with our new phone system! We’ve streamlined things to make it easier than ever to reach us. Members can say goodbye to multiple numbers and hello to one local number, one toll-free number, and one fax number.

To ensure uninterrupted communication, please update our contact information with the new numbers:

Local: 505-585-3510 | Toll-Free: 1-800-663-1919 | Fax: 1-866-463-9221

We are also enhancing our member services experience by upgrading to a new webinar platform. This update will expand accessibility for members, allowing more of you to participate in our informative sessions. Every month we offer a webinar for members discussing different stages of your career journey. You can register for upcoming webinars on the [Webinars & Presentations page](#) of the ERB website. Read more about the ERB on the Virtual Road changes on the [next page](#).

Additionally, we've updated the [Return-to-Work program rules](#). Retired members interested in returning to work are encouraged to review the revised guidelines before applying. Updates have also been made to the policy for our Local Administrative Units administering the Return-to-Work programs in the schools. Guidance for these new policies can be found on the [Employer Notices page](#) of the website.

All of the information mentioned above can be found on the [ERB website](#) and is listed below for your convenience.

## Phone and Fax Numbers

Santa Fe and Albuquerque Call Center:  
(505) 585-3510  
Toll Free: 1-800-663-1919  
Fax: 1-866-463-9221

**ERB on the Road Monthly Webinars:**  
[Webinars & Presentations](#)

## Returning to Work after Retirement Resources

Information on the Return to Work programs can be found here: [Returning to Work after Retirement](#)

Information on the recent rule changes to the Return-to-Work programs can be found here:  
[2.82.5 NMAC - Retirement Benefits](#) and  
[LAU-Guidance-Notice\\_July-2024](#)





## ERB On The Road - Tour De Nuevo Mexico

BY RENEE GARCIA, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

As the fall season approaches, we will begin hosting our Tour de Nuevo Mexico, covering areas in the Northeast and Southwest quadrants of the state. We began our tour this summer in the Northeast quadrant with stops in Mosquero, Clayton, and Raton. To encourage participation, invitations were sent to participating employers in the surrounding areas of Roy, Des Moines, Cimarron, Maxwell, Springer, High Plains Regional Educational Coop, and Moreno Valley districts.

We will now move our sights to the Southwest quadrant of the state, beginning in Silver City, then to Lordsburg, followed by Deming, and wrapping up in Las Cruces. These stops will include invitations to surrounding areas including the following districts: COBRE Consolidated, Silver Consolidated, Aldo Leopold HS, Animas Public Schools, Deming Cesar Chavez, Gadsden Independent, Hatch Valley Municipal, Las Cruces Public Schools, Alma D'Arte Charter, La Academia Dolores Huerta, Las Montanas Charter, J Paul Taylor Academy, New America School, Explore Academy, and Raices Del Sabre Xinachtli. Stay tuned for an invitation coming soon to a school near you!

We want to extend a huge thank you to our hosts and all those involved in each location, as without your assistance and providing the space and other necessary items, we would not be able to meet with so many members in each location.

## ERB On The Virtual Road - Join Us

BY RENEE GARCIA, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

***Get ready for a new chapter in our webinar series!***

We're thrilled to announce that our monthly webinars, covering every stage of your career are moving to a new platform! A huge thank you to everyone who has joined us and participated in one of these events in the past.

We can't wait for you to experience the exciting new improvements the new platform offers! Be sure to keep an eye on our [webinars page](#) and watch for your monthly invitation. There's a webinar perfect for wherever you are on your career journey.

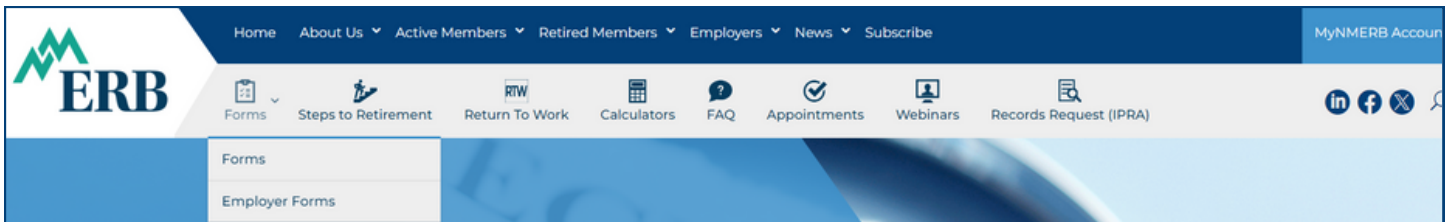
# What's new with the website?

BY THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

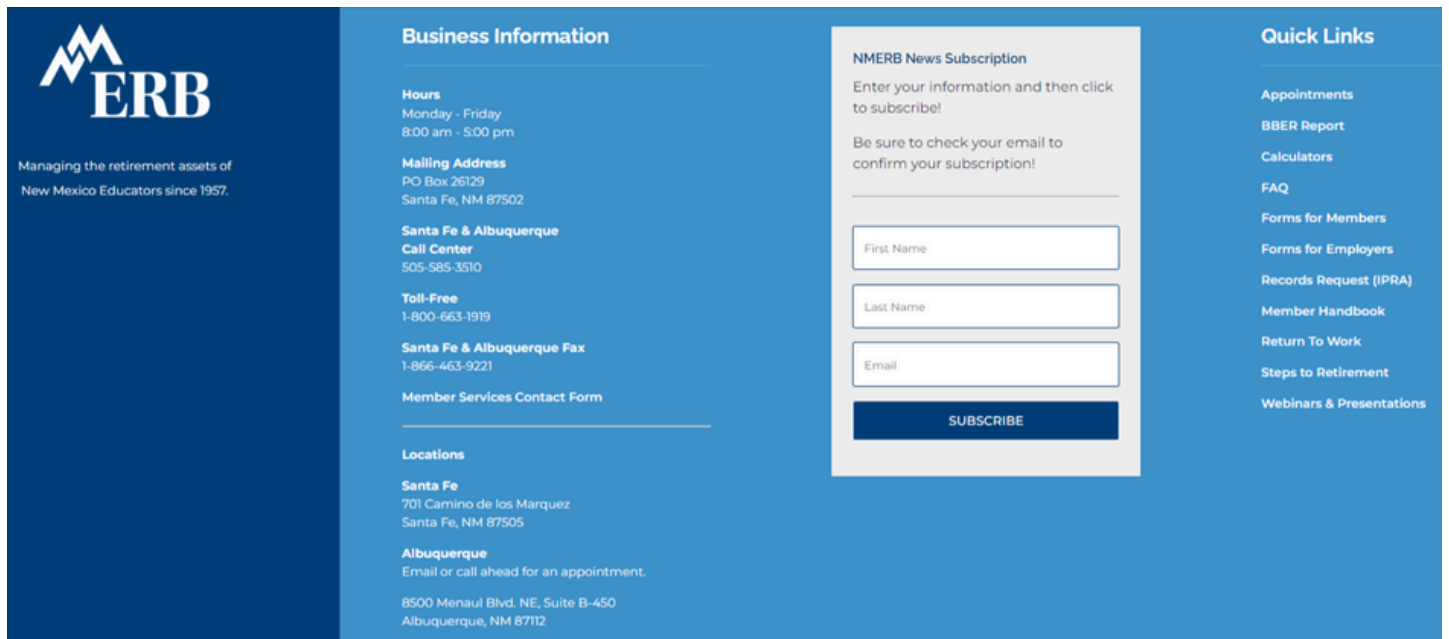
We have been at work making it easier for you to: find the resources you need; learn about immediate updates through the [ERB website](#) and contact ERB for support. While there is still more to do, we would like to share some of the improvements we recently completed.

## Website Menu

The icons at the top of web pages serve as quick links to the more popular pages of the ERB website. We have added Steps to Retirement, Return to Work, and Records Request (IPRA) to the quick links that are available. We also streamlined member forms into one page for ease of access, so now when you look at the Forms quick link, you will see Forms and Employer Forms.



At the bottom of each web page, we have listed a set of quick links that are similar to those at the top of the web page. The list of links is most useful when scrolling on a mobile device. You will also find streamlined Business Information for ERB in this part of the website.

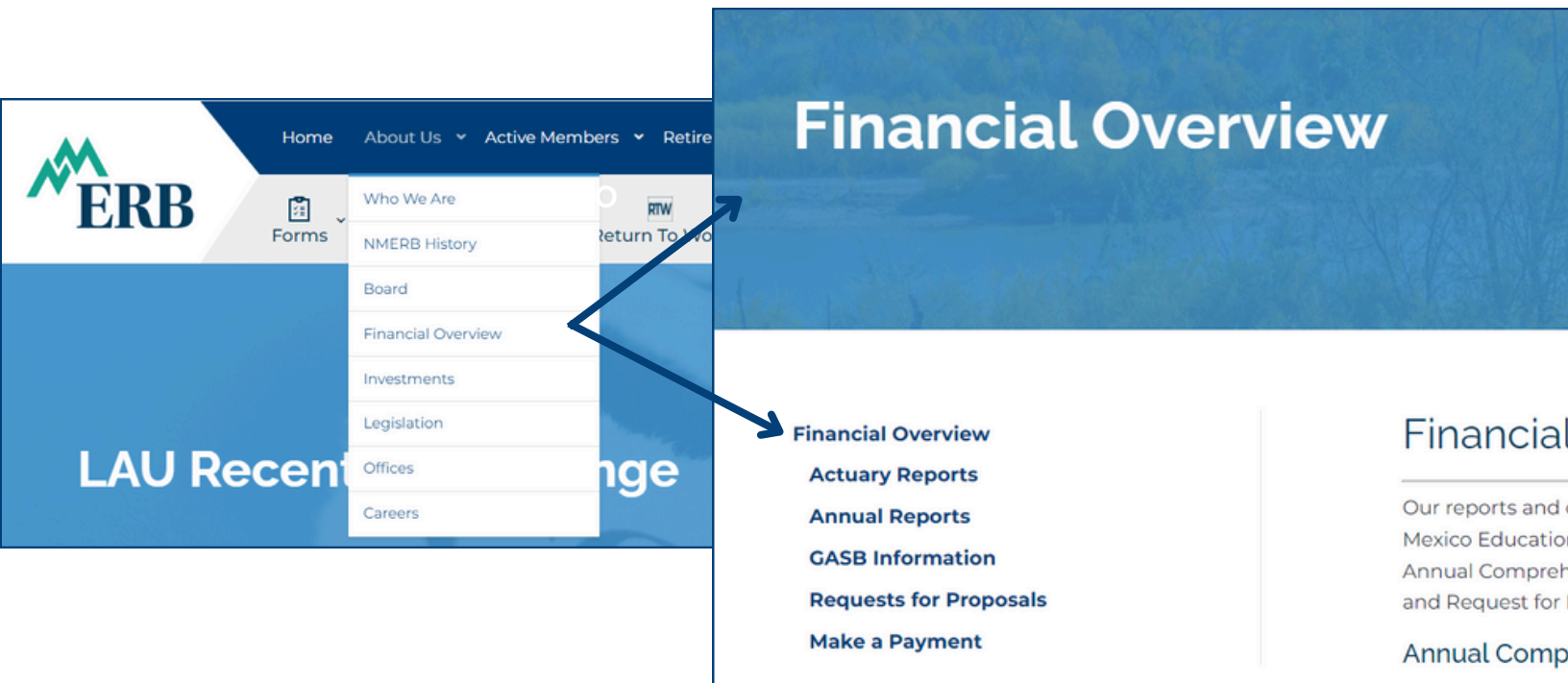


What's New with the [Website](#)? continued on Page 8



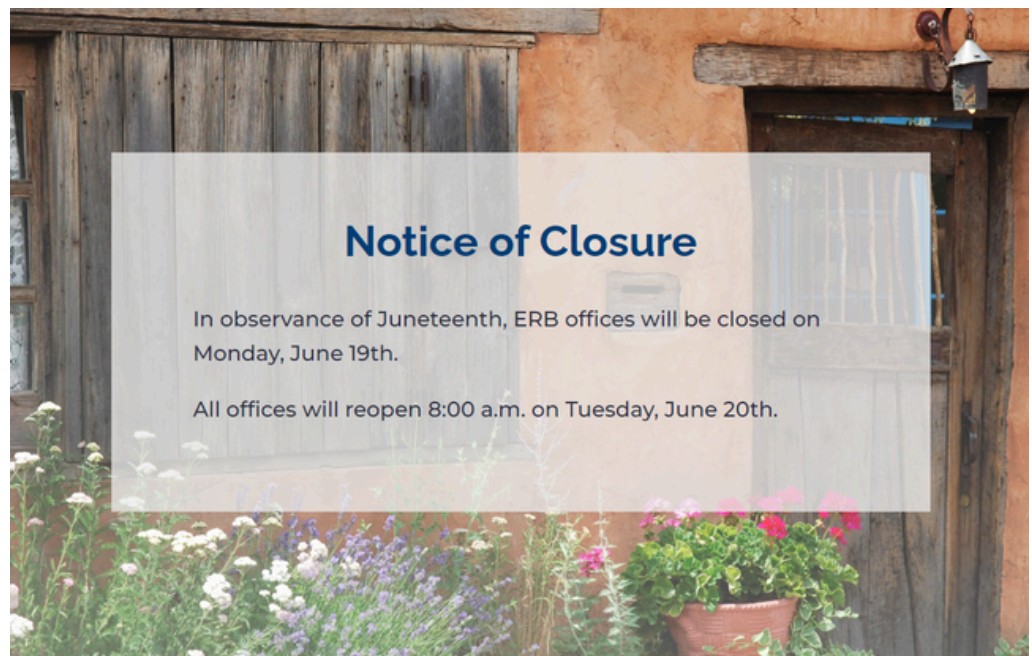
## Financial Overview Section

ERB recently added a new financial overview section to the website making information easier to locate, such as agency reports; requests for proposal information; and access the [Make a Payment](#) feature where members will be able to make a one-time ACH payment for Service Credit Purchases.



## Alerts

When there is an agency closing or technical issue, we will post an announcement on our homepage as a pop-up. This provides an urgent notification compared to the rotating images that are typically at the top of the main page. Simply click the “x” in the upper right corner of the alert to continue your visit on the website.



Thank you for taking time to learn about the recent changes with the ERB website. Please know that we will continue working to provide you with the best experience when you visit ERB's website.

## ERB Fall-Winter Closure Schedule

October 14th

November 11, 28-29

December 25

All ERB offices will reopen the following business day at 8:00 a.m.

## Retirement Tip

### You and Your MyNMERB Account

Using your personal email address for your MyNMERB account will help ERB stay in touch with you should you change positions, leave an ERB Employer, or retire.



## ERB Office Hours

Santa Fe & Albuquerque  
Monday - Friday  
8am - 5pm

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## ERB CONTACT US



**Toll-Free** 1-800-663-1919

**Call Center** 505-585-3510



[www.erb.nm.gov](http://www.erb.nm.gov)



[member.help@erb.nm.gov](mailto:member.help@erb.nm.gov)



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Email ERB Connect comments  
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## ERB EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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NMERB Executive Director

### LAWRENCE ESQUIBEL

NMERB Deputy Director

## ERB CONNECT STAFF

### RENEE GARCIA

NMERB Communications Director