



DECEMBER 2024

ERB Connect

The latest news from the New Mexico Educational Retirement Board



IN THIS ISSUE

ERB ON THE VIRTUAL ROAD p2

ERB ON THE ROAD - THANK YOU! p3

WHAT'S NEW WITH THE WEBSITE p4

YEAR-END WRAP-UP p5

ABQ READS SEEKS VOLUNTEERS p5

ERB WINTER CLOSURE SCHEDULE p6

RETIREMENT TIPS p6



Director's Update

BY DAVID ARCHULETA, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Dear Educational Retirement Act Plan Participants,

THANK YOU. As the holiday season approaches, I would like to start this message by expressing my sincerest appreciation and gratitude to the widespread educational community who work tirelessly to educate our children and make New Mexico a better place to live. Speaking from personal experience, the last 10 years have provided me with a brief insight to challenges experienced by the educational community and recognize that their efforts are nothing less than extraordinary. In addition to making sure our children feel welcomed and supported, we as parents relinquish responsibility for their safety and set high expectations for their care before, during and after school. I have also paid witness to the countless voluntary hours it requires principals, teachers, janitors and willing parents to coordinate, plan and execute after school events including concerts, holiday celebrations,

Director's Update continued on Page 2

graduations, and sporting events. On behalf of the Educational Retirement Board and its employees, thank you from the bottom of our hearts.

Funding. We're happy to share good news about your pension plan's financial health. As of June 30, 2024, the plan is looking much better than it did in the past. The plan's goal was to be fully funded by 2049, but based on current projections, it looks like we'll reach that goal three years earlier, in 2046. This is great news! The plan's assets have increased, and its overall financial position has improved. However, it's important to remember that future performance will depend on various factors, such as investment returns, the number of people retiring, and the amount of benefits paid out.

Building. Progress on the construction of ERB's new office building continues to move quickly as we expect a certificate of occupancy to be issued on April 10, 2025. The 19,000 sq ft structure will support the consolidation of owned and lease office space in Santa Fe and support the dedication of resources under one roof. The new office building will be located at 5211 Las Soleras Drive on the south side of Santa Fe.

Session. Back in October, ERB received endorsement from the interim Investments and Pensions Oversight Committee of its 2025 legislative priorities. These priorities include certain technical changes needed to strengthen the Educational Retirement Act and provide clarity regarding the receipt of gifts, unclaimed property, cost-of-living adjustments eligibility, defining contributory employment, timeline for purchasing service credit and allowing for the exchange of information between the Educational Retirement Board and the Public Employees Retirement Association for the members who have earned service credit with both organizations.

I hope your holiday season is filled with joy, good health and many blessings. Until the Spring Message, stay safe.

David Archuleta

ERB On The Virtual Road

BY RENEE GARCIA, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

Below is the webinar schedule for January through June of 2025. To attend your next webinar, register on the [Webinar and Presentations](#) page of the ERB website.

- Early/Mid-Career 1/14/2025 from 4:00-5:00 p.m.
- Retirement Readiness 2/11/2025 from 4:00-5:00 p.m.
- Early/Mid-Career 3/11/2025 from 4:00-5:00 p.m.
- Retirement Readiness 4/15/2025 from 4:00-5:00 p.m.
- Early/Mid-Career 5/13/2025 from 4:00-5:00 p.m.
- Retirement Readiness 6/17/2025 from 4:00-5:00 p.m.





ERB On The Road - Thank You!

BY RENEE GARCIA, COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

In the season of giving and joy, we would like to say, "Thank you!" to all of the schools who hosted us onsite or virtually over the last couple of months and all of the surrounding schools who attended as well as our collaborative events. Our season of travel was a success and without each of you, we would not have been able to meet with so many members across the state.

Hosting Schools

Carlsbad
Central Consolidated School District
CNM Community College
Clayton
Deming
ENMU
ENMU – Roswell
Lordsburg
Mosquero
New Mexico Junior College
New Mexico State University
Raton
UNM Medical Group
WNMU – Silver City

Surrounding Invitations

Aldo Leopold
Alma D'Arte Charter
Animas Public Schools
Cimarron
Cobre Consolidated
Deming Cesar Chavez
Des Moines
Explore Academy
Gasden Independent
Hatch Valley
High Plains Red ED
Cooperative

J Paul Taylor Academy
La Academia Dolores Huerta
Las Cruces Public
Las Montanas Charter
Moreno Valley High
New America School
Raices Del Saber Xinachtli
Roy
Silver Consolidated
Springer

Collaborations

Nusenda Credit Union and the Financial Literacy Program
LEAP
NMPISA

What's New with the Website?

BY THE COMMUNICATIONS TEAM

We are pleased to share with you the recent additions to the website: the member handbook, new Pension Administration update pages, and new webinar information.



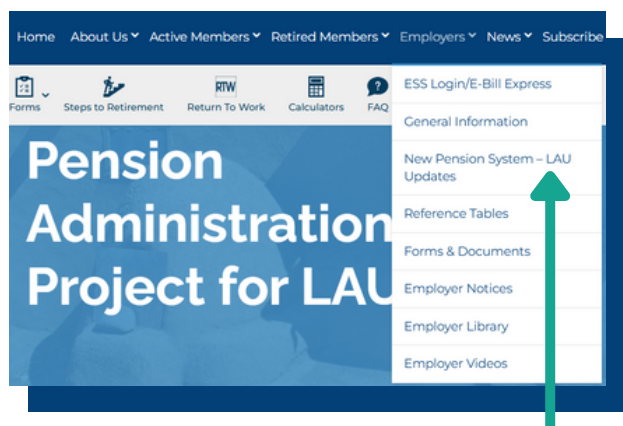
Member Handbook 2024

Earlier this fall we published the Member Handbook for 2024 to the ERB Website and wanted to share this information with you as it is a valuable resource at any point in your career.

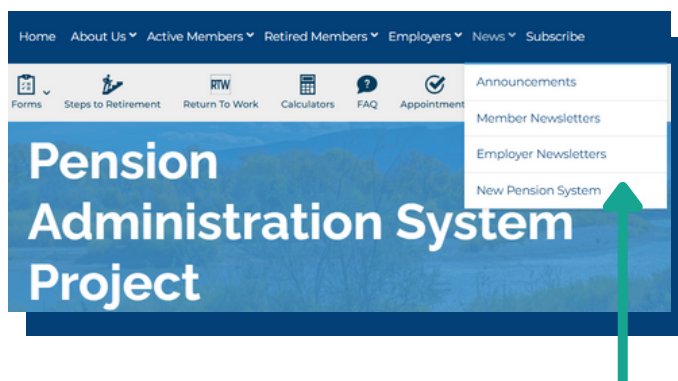
You can read the new member handbook on the [Member Handbook page](#) of the ERB Website or by selecting the image to the left.

New Pension Administration System Updates Pages

We have added two new pages to the website to keep you up to date on the progress we are making with the new Pension Administration System. One page is for the Local Administrative Units (LAUs) and the other is for Members. Along with updates, you are able to reach out to ERB with questions about the project.



The [Pension Administration System Project for LAUs page](#) can be found under the Employer menu drop down on the main menu and listed as: New Pension System - LAU Updates.



The [Pension Administration System Project](#) page for Members can be found under the News menu drop down on the main menu and listed as: New Pension System.



Year-end Wrap-Up

BY BOB JACKSHA, CHIEF INVESTMENT OFFICER

The investment markets continued to produce attractive returns for the calendar through the end of September. Stocks did extremely well, with the S&P 500 returning over 22% for the first nine months of 2024.

Overall, our diversified portfolio earned 9.27% for the same period, handily exceeding our actuarial target of 7% per year. Longer term, our annual average rates of return exceed the target, with the exception of the three year return at 5.5%. You may view the details of our results on the [Investment Performance](#) page of the ERB website.

ABQ READS Seeks Volunteers

CONTENT PROVIDED BY ABQ READS

ABQ READS is a classroom-based tutoring program that helps struggling kindergarten-first-grade readers boost their literacy achievement to enable lifelong learning.

Did you know that from kindergarten to grade two, children Learn to Read. From grade three on, children Read to Learn. Join Albuquerque Public Schools, the Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce and volunteers like you to make a lasting difference in a child's life.

Fast Facts:

- A one-on-one literacy tutoring program at three elementary schools: Whittier, Atrisco and Bel-Air.
- Delivers 90 minutes each week of personalized literacy tutoring for each kindergarten-first-grade Title I student in the program (Sept - May) and supplies every student it serves with up to 20 books for their at-home library.
- Access to online reading resources for at-home reading.



VOLUNTEER TODAY!

abqreads.com
(505) 843- 7323 (READ)
abqreads@greaterabq.com

or

Scan the QR Code



LEGAL NOTE: NMERB encourages volunteer work, however, paid volunteer work may violate Return-to-work rules. Contact NMERB if you have any questions or concerns.

ERB Winter Closure Schedule

December 24 at Noon - 25, 2024

January 1, 2025

January 20, 2025

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

Retirement Tips

TIP 1: Third Party Pension Advisors

Just a reminder that NMERB does not:

- Share information related to your pension earnings, personal finances, or contact information with third party administrators.
- Endorse the use of supplemental financial planning tools and encourages you to perform due diligence before sharing personal information with any company collecting this information.

TIP 2: Tax Documents

1099-R documents are available in your Member Self-Service Portal.



ERB Office Hours

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

ERB CONTACT US



Toll-Free 1-800-663-1919

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NMERB Communications Director

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