

The Bernalillo County Board of Commissioners

**SPONSORED BY: COMMISSIONERS DEBBIE O'MALLEY, ART DE LA CRUZ
MAGGIE HART STEBBINS, LONNIE C. TALBERT and WAYNE A. JOHNSON**

WHEREAS, Augustine "Chris" Baca was born and raised as a "Son of the South Valley" and has dedicated his life to his wife, family and to helping children, youth and families in Bernalillo County and throughout New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, in 1973 Chris Baca became the leader of Youth Development, Inc. at its formative stages and helped transform YDI into one of the premier, nationally recognized community-based organizations in the southwest that serves over 17,000 people annually, employs over 500 people and utilizes nearly 55 programs; and

WHEREAS, Chris Baca and YDI have worked together with Bernalillo County to start and maintain numerous programs including Family and Community Services, first funded by Bernalillo County over 40 years ago to address urban conditions in the South Valley that promoted substance abuse and gang-related activity; and

WHEREAS, other programs developed include: the Project Achieve program that offers early intervention services to students through language arts and reading instruction to address the school dropout problem; the Teatro Consejo program which offers prevention and education services for youth through the use of a performing/media arts model; the Pre-Employment Training program that provides at-risk youth between the ages of 16-21 with the education and employability skills necessary to successfully gain employment; and Amistad which provides child abuse prevention and treatment services to run-away and homeless youth; and

WHEREAS, Chris Baca has received numerous awards and national recognition as a youth development innovator and leader, because he realizes that in order to create real and systemic change, a person must work from within his or her own community; and

WHEREAS, Chris Baca is retiring as CEO and President of YDI on June 30, 2014 after 41 years of service; and his example of public service serves to inspire the next generation of leaders to continue the important work of helping children, youth and families in our community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Bernalillo County Board of County Commissioners does hereby recognize Augustine "Chris" Baca and congratulates him for a job well done as a leader, instructor, innovator and mentor to New Mexico's children, youth and families.

DONE, this 20th day of May, 2014, in Bernalillo County, State of New Mexico.

BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

Debbie O'Malley, Chair

Art De La Cruz, Vice Chair

Maggie Hart Stebbins, Member

Lonnie C. Talbert, Member

Wayne A. Johnson, Member

ATTESTED BY:

**Maggie Toulouse Oliver
County Clerk**