



I am grateful for my good health and the opportunity to serve others through the painful and lasting impact of the pandemic. As State Auditor, I have the honor of working with civil servants from all 33 counties to celebrate excellence in government and reiterate the difference those public servants make in the lives of New Mexicans every day. Especially during a crisis, government employees, elected officials and services are most critical for the public's safety and well-being. The State of New Mexico and thousands of government employees stepped up to serve others and put their personal safety second.

It was humbling to be able to deliver messages of gratitude for that work. I am grateful to work with a team at the Office of the State Auditor that stepped up and answered the call to protect New Mexicans and precious resources during a time of unprecedented circumstances.

I am grateful to live in one of the most philanthropic states in the nation—our Land of Enchantment. Individuals and non-profit organizations filled the gap for so many families in crisis. As a child in Valencia County, I knew what it was to need help from others year-round,

and some of my fondest memories are the random acts of kindness shown to my family during the holidays. During this week of gratitude, I feel particularly fortunate to be on the other side of the “give & receive equation” as an adult.

Finally, I am grateful for my health and the health of my family. I’m so grateful to have a wonderful and loving wife, who is an immigrant, civil engineer, educator & PhD candidate. This year we celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary with our beautiful 24-year-old son, Rafael, and she is my greatest blessing.