Ernie Welch Award 2023

The Association annually recognizes a person for outstanding service to pharmacy and the general welfare of the citizens of New Mexico. This award is presented at the Annual Convention (June 25, 2023)

In 2019 this years recipient was recognized by the Board of Pharmacy for being a registered pharmacist for 50 years. His independent pharmacy will be celebrating 50 years of service to his rural community this upcoming December.

His customers have always been a top priority and he knows that good customer service is the key to a successful business. He has modeled his pharmacy to fit the needs of his customers as well as his community. The pharmacy started off with a front end that had gifts and groceries and now is the only pharmacy that has Durable Medical Equipment and Oxygen supplies in his area. The retail pharmacy has a robot which allows him to fill prescriptions at a faster rate allowing him more time to immunize and counsel his patients. The workday does not end when the pharmacy closes, he takes deliveries on his way home and has been known to open the pharmacy in the middle of the night to fill prescriptions for an individual in need. His customers are not only his patients they are an extension of his family. You may walk into his pharmacy unknown, but you will walk out with a new friend.

In 2002 he opened his Compounding pharmacy and received his training from Professional Compounding Centers of America in Bio-Identical Hormone Replacement Therapy and Pain Therapy. This has allowed him to reach all corners of New Mexico with customized compounds.

He is a pharmacist consultant for over 30 facilities and has been a preceptor for the University of New Mexico Collage of Pharmacy for as long as he can remember. Many students have expressed their gratitude for how passionate he is as a pharmacist and acknowledge his love for his community.

He donates his time and services to the New Mexico Boys and Girls Ranches and has been recognized by the Conviction Discipleship Center for his generosity for helping individuals build successful lives.

It is my pleasure and honor to present my pharmacist, my mentor and father.

Wilfred O. Chavez

With the Ernie Welch Award

Carmen Camino

Desiree Hodges

Benjamin Hodges

Heather Reynolds

Carla Manfre

Josiah Pemble

Jordyn Ross

Sally Kidees

Shirley Jojola

Lucille Zamora

Paula Macias

Debbie Otero

Cindy Gallegos