3rd Annual Local Food and Farm to School Awards

Farmer of the Year
Omar Qureshi
Farmer and Garden to Cafeteria Program Manager
Magdalena Municipal School District
Omar Qureshi has been teaching middle/high school math and social studies for 18 years, much of it on the Navajo Nation. He's the owner of Nanise Native Plants and Education LLC, a small landscaping and educational consulting company based in Magdalena NM. He currently works with the Magdalena Municipal Schools Farm to School Team, helping students in grades 3-8 to produce greens and vegetables for the school cafeteria salad bar.

School Food Service of the Year
Lyman Graham
Food Service Director
Roswell, Carlsbad and Dexter Schools
Lyman Graham has been a Food Service Director for 28 years. His passion involves providing food for students, partnering with many organizations and people. He has been on the Governor's New Mexico Task Force to End Hunger and also serves as the Treasure of the New Mexico School Nutrition Association (NMSNA). Lyman was honored as Director of the Year in 2011 by his peers at NMSNA and was a Silver Plate Award winner from the International Food Manufactures in 2012. As a Food service Director, he has the privilege of serving approximately 36,000 meals a day to the students and staff at the schools in Southeastern NM where he works.

Organization of the Year
New Mexico Acequia Association
New Mexico Acequia Association (NMAA) is a unique organization that honors an ancient legacy of water governance while also working to adapt for the future. For nearly 30 years, NMAA has been responding to challenges through communication, training, and education about acequias. Together they have built a movement around the principle that Water is Life, El Agua es Vida, and with the idea that we are defenders of the precious waters that nurture our communities. They recognize the work that they do in partnership with American Friends Service Committee (AFSC), working for a just food system, and creating a model that connects legislative funding, farmers and schools. NMAA is honored to be a part of a collaborative with AFSC, La Cosecha del Norte Coop and Sembradores Farmer Training Program to get locally grown food to local school children.
Teacher of the Year
Travis McKenzie
Teacher at Van Buren Middle School
Albuquerque Public Schools

Travis McKenzie is the Garden/Problem Solving Elective teacher at Van Buren Middle School. He is co-founder of Lobo Gardens at UNM, Project Feed the Hood with the Southwest Organizing Project, and is a member of the New Mexico Acequia Association’s Sembrando Semillas Intergenerational Agricultural Program and Families United for Education. He has farmed at Cornelio Candelaria Organics, a 300 year old family farm in Atrisco, NM, for 4 years and continues to plant as many crops, with as many people, in as much land as possible. He has helped many school/community gardens and continues to promote school gardens/food justice, restorative justice, and ethnic studies.

Farmers’ Market of the Year
Farmington Growers Market

The Farmington Growers Market was established in 1991 as a tail-gate drop market, and is operated by a vendor and community based Executive Board. The market has grown to accommodate nearly 50 vendors and serves over 20,000 customers each year, all while maintaining its original values and goals surrounding local agriculture and supporting its vendors. Farmers still drop their tail gates twice each week, maintaining the authentic small-market feel while providing a wide variety of agricultural products to the Four Corners. The market is home to vendors who cross all spectrum of the region, including traditional native agricultural products, and native New Mexican crops. Each week vendors provide the community with a wide variety of products including fresh fruits and vegetables, agrarian based craft items and value added products.

Farmers have to overcome the challenges of a short growing season and growing in the high desert. The market strives each week to preserve the legacy of agriculture in Farmington and the surrounding area. The City of Farmington provides an incredible support system for the market, and hosts the market twice a week at the Gateway Park and Museum, which has been a huge part of the market’s success.

Farm to Table 518 Old Santa Fe Trail, Suite 1, Box 171, Santa Fe, NM 87505, www.farmtotablenm.org