

Report to Listeners  
From Richard Towne, KUNM General Manager  
Zounds and KUNM.org  
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Every two years, KUNM holds elections for contributing listeners to elect four members and two alternates to the KUNM Radio Board. The nomination phase of this year's election opened on January 26 and closed on February 19. At the deadline, The Office of the University Secretary here at UNM had only received four nominations.

The election is overseen by the Office of the Provost because KUNM reports to that office as part of Regents Policy on KUNM. The KUNM Radio Board Election Guidelines, issued by the Office of the Provost instruct us that, "*Please Note: In the event that there are four or fewer nominations for the four open Board positions, a ballot will not be produced or mailed to subscribers and staff. Instead, the nominees will be invited by the Provost to serve a full term on the Board.*

Here are the biographical sketches and statements from each of the nominees in this year's election. Please welcome them to new terms on the Radio Board starting May 5, 2015.

### **John R. Brown, Corrales**

#### Biographical sketch:

John is completing his first term as a KUNM Radio Board member. During his career he worked for federal agencies, the Navajo Nation, the State of New Mexico, Sandoval County, several Indian tribes, the NM Acequia Association, and internationally (on governing common-pool resources). As a UNM adjunct instructor he taught public budgeting. He was executive director of the NM Water Dialogue, and serves on the boards of the Dialogue and the MRG Water Assembly.

#### Candidate's statement :

My wife and I share KUNM's member #507. (We've supported the station - modestly - a long time!) We appreciate the diverse mix of local and syndicated programming, and the balance between music and public affairs. The important roles of volunteers and training opportunities to strengthen their performance should be a management priority, as is the need for an open conversation throughout the organization about KUNM's goals and priorities and how to achieve them.

### **Marc Robert, Albuquerque**

#### Biographical sketch:

Marc Robert is a lawyer with the Federal Public Defender's Office in Albuquerque. He was elected to the board in 2013, and currently serves as its chairperson. He has been a longtime supporter of public radio. He is also a musician, playing folk music at various places around

town.

Candidate's statement:

My service on the KUNM Radio Board has been deeply satisfying, and am privileged to serve as the Board's chairperson. I look forward to serving what would be my last two year term on the board. I have learned a great deal about KUNM's operations, and will continue to work with KUNM's management, its volunteers and the listeners to keep KUNM the unique and important part of the community that it is.

**Blake Driver**, Albuquerque

Biographical sketch:

Blake received his bachelor's in French, Journalism and Mass Communication from the University of New Mexico in 2002 and has devoted himself to a life mission of bringing the accomplishments of artists and entrepreneurs to the world's attention by writing arts and culture stories for print, online and radio ever since. He's reported features as a stringer for TIME magazine and KUNM, and he currently freelances for Weekly Alibi and blogs for The Huffington Post.

Candidate's statement:

With his background in journalism, public relations and marketing, Blake would bring KUNM a working knowledge of the best practices in mass media as a member of the radio board. Drawing from firsthand experience in the ways public radio remains a vital source of programming, and a desire to maximize its reach and influence, he would apply his passion for building platforms of expression to continue KUNM's legacy of bringing extraordinary voices to the world.

**Alexandra Buresch**, Santa Fe

Biographical sketch:

I was born in Persia, and lived on three different continents growing up. I studied Anthropology and received a BA followed by an MA in African Studies. But finally, I decided to dedicate myself to filmmaking. In the intervening three decades I have been a technician on many a movie production, I have produced and directed shorts and documentaries. For a time I worked as a spotlight operator in the theater. I have seen and lived entertainment in many of its forms - but not radio.

Candidate's statement:

I am nominating myself for the Radio Board because I am in love with all things audible. I have been listening to audio books since they first appeared on cassettes, and now prefer to "read" books by hearing them. I tune into sounds and try to imitate them. I have built sound tracks for film. I believe I can bring much useful experience to the position due to my decades of work in the film industry.

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