



For Immediate Release

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Rio Grande Credit Union Becomes First Juntos Avanzamos CU in New Mexico

Monday, December 14, at Rio Grande Credit Union – 301 Rio Bravo Blvd SE – 10:00am

Albuquerque, NM – Leaders from the Federation of Community Development Credit Unions and the Cornerstone Credit Union League presented Rio Grande Credit Union with the [Juntos Avanzamos](#) designation for their continued history of outreach to Albuquerque’s Hispanic community. Also participating in this Proclamation Ceremony were US Congresswoman Michelle Lujan Grisham, NM Senator Michael Padilla, and Bernalillo Commissioner Art de la Cruz.

The Juntos Avanzamos (meaning “Together we Advance”) designation was developed to formally recognize those credit unions throughout the country that have a history of serving the underserved, increasing members’ financial literacy, and providing products and services that provide a better alternative to payday lenders and cash advance storefronts. As the *Albuquerque Journal* noted this past September, over [1 in 3 Albuquerque residents are unbanked](#), this designation recognizes the efforts of Rio Grande Credit Union to introduce this population to a helpful part of the American financial system.

Ona Porter, Executive Director of [Prosperity Works](#) remarked, “First [Rio Grande Credit Union] gave us everything we needed to open Prosperity Kids™ accounts for more than 500 children and emergency accounts for their parents. Then they sought and received a “low income” designation, and then became a CDFI (Community Development Financial Institution) allowing them to provide products and services on different terms than they previously could. And NOW a Juntos Avanzamos designation declaring their continued dedication to serve the Hispanic community! When we ask our partners to act within their previews of power to remove barriers and create pathways to economic security, opportunity abounds!”

The celebration culminated with the raising of the Juntos Avanzamos flag over the Rio Grande Credit Union headquarters accompanied by mariachi fanfare.

“This award is not so much recognition of one particular Rio Grande effort. It’s recognition of our history of service to the local community. We’re proud to raise the Juntos Avanzamos flag above Rio Grande Credit Union,” says President/CEO Chris Fitzgerald.

About Rio Grande Credit Union

Rio Grande Credit Union is a not for profit financial institution started by the City of Albuquerque employees over 60 years ago. Rio Grande Credit Union operates 5 branches throughout Albuquerque and holds over \$270MM in assets. The credit union was recently recognized as one of two of the healthiest financial institutions in New Mexico according to depositaccounts.com. Anyone living or working in Bernalillo or Sandoval county may join.

About Juntos Avanzamos

Originally launched in 2005 as an immigrant outreach program, the Juntos Avanzamos program was designed to help credit unions attract and serve the growing Hispanic market in Texas. Now through a partnership with the National Federation of Community Development Credit Unions, Juntos Avanzamos has a national reach. There are now over 40 Juntos Avanzamos designated credit unions in the country.

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