

YDI, Inc. has an extremely bright future ahead as Robert Chavez steps into CEO position

2/17/2022, Albuquerque, NM

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

The impact of the retirement of current YDI CEO Dr. Diego Gallegos will certainly be felt by the children and families here in New Mexico that he has come to help since 2015, but thanks to YDI's Board of Directors, that impact will be minimal in terms of YDI Leadership. Robert Chavez, YDI's current COO, has been chosen as YDI's newest and third overall CEO in its 51- year history.

YDI's current CEO, Dr. Diego Gallegos will be retiring effective June 30, 2022, but thanks to the YDI's Board of Directors commitment, a seamless succession plan has been enacted in order to ensure a smooth transition. Robert Chavez, YDI's current COO has been appointed to serve as CEO effective July 1, 2022.

Robert's history with YDI began as a 14-year-old summer youth employee and he continued working for YDI for 14 years up to the position of YDI Associate Director, then he left to work for Intel Corporation and the State of New Mexico. Robert is the former COO of the New Mexico State Board of Nursing, and former interim co-division director for the New Mexico Human Services Department's - Behavioral Health Services Division as well as a former deputy director for the New Mexico Human Services Department's - Income Support Division. Robert holds an MA and BS degrees from the University of Phoenix and has completed courses at Harvard University's Extension School. He has also served on YDI's Head Start Policy Council, working for YDI for nearly 20 years of his professional career.

This transition ensures that the employees of YDI, as well as those receiving YDI's services will keep a familiar and friendly face that they have already come to trust at the helm, keeping the organization on track with established goals, objectives and mission.

In a special Board meeting held on February 5, 2022, the YDI Board of Directors interviewed Robert Chavez for the CEO position, to determine and solidify that he is indeed the best individual to step into the CEO position come July 1, 2022. Then, in last night's (February 17, 2022) regularly scheduled Board Meeting, after continued deliberations, it was announced that indeed Mr. Robert Chavez was chosen by the YDI Board of Directors as the YDI's newest CEO.

"The commitment of the YDI Board of Directors to effective succession planning provides YDI the opportunity and ability to continue its extraordinary growth and the stability created by the current Leadership Team without the uncertainty and challenges of having a long and possibly divisive CEO search," according to Dr. Gallegos. "The next four months will provide the YDI Board of Directors time to focus their efforts through and with their new leader while the YDI Executive Leadership Team examines their roles and responsibilities with their new leader. I am excited to be able to support and facilitate this transition as my last set of duties as the current leader at YDI," states Dr. Gallegos.

Youth Development, Inc. (YDI), founded in 1971, is a nationally recognized youth and family service organization in New Mexico. We can help you with early childhood education and childcare, prenatal care, alternative education, job training and placement, mental and behavioral health services, homeless assistance, mentoring, family development and family counseling services.

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