

**MICHELLE LUJAN GRISHAM, GOVERNOR**

James C. Kenney, Cabinet Secretary

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The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations.

**Justin Garoutte Recognized by the de Beaumont Foundation
as a Leader in Public Health**

SANTA FE — Justin Garoutte, MPH, has been recognized as one of the “40 Under 40 in Public Health” in recognition of their work at the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED). The de Beaumont Foundation announced its 2021 list today after reviewing applications from hundreds of rising leaders in public health. The cohort was selected by a distinguished panel of public health professionals for their leadership and impact on their community’s health.

“At a time when health professionals are being required to adapt and take on monumental challenges, we are incredibly proud of these leaders,” said Brian C. Castrucci, DrPH, president and CEO of the de Beaumont Foundation. “We created the 40 Under 40 program to recognize and tell the stories of rising leaders who are making a difference in communities across the country. By promoting their work and accomplishments, we hope to attract and inspire a new generation of leaders.”

“It’s an honor to be recognized in this meaningful way for my contributions to public health, especially for my work during the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Justin Garoutte, Director of Strategic Initiatives at NMED. “I aspire to create systemic change that fosters and leads to healthier communities here in New Mexico and beyond. By engaging with communities at local, national, and international levels, I hope to build and sustain public health practice that achieves positive health outcomes and saves lives.”

“Justin is a dedicated and committed professional who brings a wealth of talent and skill to protecting public health,” said Cabinet Secretary James Kenney. “New Mexicans are safer because of Justin’s ability to turn public health data into community-level action.”

From leading the [New Mexico COVID-19 Wastewater Surveillance System](#) to slow the spread of COVID-19 and save lives in congregate settings to serving as Policy Chair of the LGBTQ Health Caucus of the American Public Health Association, Garoutte has demonstrated their commitment to improving public health both locally and nationally. They have also previously served as Policy Co-Chair of the New Mexico Public Health Association. Garoutte holds a Master of Public Health from the University of New Mexico and a Bachelor of Arts from Colorado College.

For more information about the 40 Under 40 in Public Health, including a full list of honorees, visit www.debeaumont.org/40Under40.

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The Environment Department's mission is to protect and restore the environment and to foster a healthy and prosperous New Mexico for present and future generations. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, NMED's Occupational Health and Safety Bureau kept nearly 9,000 businesses open, 300,000 employees protected and countless New Mexico families safe by conducting more than 30,000 COVID-19 rapid responses.

The agency oversees more than 1,000 public drinking water systems serving nearly all 2 million New Mexicans, in addition to programs that protect our land, air and water.

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