

EXECUTIVE PROFILE

Write this down: it's important to delegate

KNOWING WHAT MAKES THE WORLD GO ROUND IS PART OF WILLIAM MICHENER'S JOB



William Michener, a professor at the University of New Mexico, is the director of e-Science Initiatives for University Libraries

and the project director for the Data Observation Network for Earth (DataONE).

DataONE is a network of researchers working to make data and observations about Earth and its ecosystem more universally accessible through cyberinfrastructure.

Michener has authored four books and numerous journal articles. He is also the associate editor of the International Journal of Ecological Informatics and editor of Ecological Archives.



William Michener says if something is important, write it down.

COURTESY UNM

WILLIAM MICHENER

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Education: Ph.D., 1990, Biological Oceanography, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC; M.S., 1980, Entomology, Fisheries and Wildlife, Clemson University, Clemson, SC; B.S., 1977, Zoology, Clemson University, Clemson, SC

Family: wife, Barbara Kimbell; daughters, Alyssa and Lisa; son, John.

Hobbies: traveling, photography, hiking, birding and snorkeling

Hometown: Newark, Ohio

Number of years in New Mexico: 14

How and when did you know you wanted to pursue the career you are currently in? I knew I wanted to pursue this career around 1999, when I was working at the National Science Foundation and on a sabbatical. My experiences at the National Science Foundation reinforced my interests in balancing project administration with science and education.

What are some of the most important lessons you learned outside of the classroom? First, life is far too short, so value your family and friends. Second, travel widely and experience as many different aspects of life as you can, such as food, sights, music, cultures. Third, if it's important, write it down.

What are some of the most important lessons you learned in school? I learned how to follow directions and how to set and meet deadlines, how to balance many activities simultaneously

and how to listen and how to learn.

How has being involved in a science-based project or organization affected how you take in and process information? I have had to learn how to more effectively delegate work to others and how to be as inclusive as possible in engaging colleagues and attempting to reach consensus on strategic directions and priorities. One result has been the need to become a skilled meeting facilitator and knowledgeable in project management tools and approaches.

If you could go back to school and study anything, what would you choose and why? I would most likely follow in the footsteps of my daughter Alyssa and study photography and filmmaking. I am enthralled with her ability to convey beauty, emotions, and sense of place and being in ways that inform and move.

What is the best business advice you've ever received? Figure out who the customer is and find out what they are looking for.

In your opinion, what are some of the ways New Mexico government and policies could help science-based organizations thrive? New Mexico could and should do at least two things to support science entrepreneurship in the state, particularly for those areas associated with the research universities. First, New Mexico should establish a fund to cover the cost-share requirements for programs like New Mexico EPSCoR [the Experimental Program to Stimulate Competitive Research], which is helping researchers at NMSU, New Mexico Tech, Highlands, Eastern, and UNM develop new energy solutions and businesses in the state. Second, New Mexico should invest in endowed faculty positions such as

governor's chairs, that can be used to attract and retain scientific talent to the state that can bolster innovation in important areas like energy, biomedicine and nanotechnology.

Who are some of the mentors you've had in your career? My two most important mentors were both extraordinary people that held ordinary positions: Major Rhodes, my high school biology teacher who made science competitive, eye-opening and fun; and Tom Callahan, a program director at the National Science Foundation, who pushed me to return to school for a Ph.D., to think outside of the box and to "tell it like it is."

— Hunter Riley | Special to Albuquerque Business First

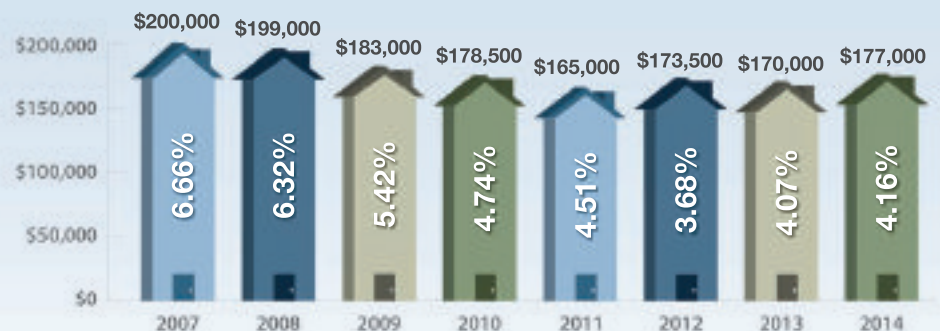
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Market **Highlights**

* Interest rates based on a 30 year fixed-rate mortgage.



2nd QTR Median Sales Price (by year)
(also shown: 2nd QTR interest rate* by year)