## PRESS RELEASE

Contact Information: NM Fiber Network Samantha Chavez 915-422-4646 schavez@nmfibernetwork.com



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

## NM Fiber Network Appoints Troy Judd as CFO

Tularosa, NM- NM Fiber Network is pleased to announce the appointment of Troy Judd to the position of Chief Financial Officer. Judd has helped shape the formation of NM Fiber Network and currently serves on the board of directors representing Valley Telecom Group. This appointment gives him an opportunity to continue his work with the organization and oversee its financial success.

Mr. Judd comes to NM Fiber Network with more than 21 years of experience in the telecommunications industry and has held numerous senior roles in the telecom space. After graduating from Western New Mexico University in Silver City with a bachelor's degree in business administration with an emphasis in accounting, he spent a year at Bolinger, Segars, Gilbert & Moss in Lubbock, Texas as an auditor for telecommunications companies. Judd is currently CFO at Valley TeleCom Group, which he joined twenty years ago, where his responsibilities have included finance, strategic planning, human resources, regulatory & compliance, billing, and marketing for the organization that spans over southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico.

In addition to his work with Valley TeleCom Group and NM Fiber Network, Judd is currently the board chair for Cochise Credit Union, President of the Arizona Local Exchange Carrier Association and also past president of the Arizona New Mexico Telecommunications Association.

Judd's involvement on the local and regional level reflects his belief that communities can grow by collaborating together. When asked why he supported the decision to form NM Fiber Network, he referred to its 11 founding members and said, "These local providers have been meeting the needs of New Mexico residents for decades and are best poised to navigate the future needs and hurdles to achieve a connected New Mexico for all of our residents. Leveraging the knowledge of telecommunications professionals across the state will lead to a comprehensive solution for the state's telecommunications needs as well as addressing the needs at a local level."

Judd is keen to move NM Fiber Network forward, as he believes building fiber out to New Mexicans will improve the quality of life in New Mexico and provide more economic opportunities by providing connectivity to the unserved and underserved areas of New Mexico. He said, "Business owners, medical professionals, first responders, teachers, students, farmers, consumers, and many others depend on high-speed internet in their daily lives, it is these individuals who will benefit the most from enhanced middle mile connectivity in New Mexico."

Josh Beug, CEO for NM Fiber Network, supported Judd's appointment by stating, "Not only does he bring financial expertise, but understands the challenges we face as rural broadband providers and knows our unique state landscapes, communities, and industry well." NM Fiber Network continues to structure their organization as they continue to build a fiber middle mile network in the state of New Mexico.

## About NM Fiber Network, LLC

NM Fiber Network, LLC's founding companies are Baca Valley Telephone Company, Inc., Dell Telephone Cooperative, Inc., ENMR Telephone Cooperative, La Jicarita Rural Telephone Cooperative, Leaco Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Peñasco Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Roosevelt County Rural Telephone Cooperative, Inc., Sacred Wind Communications, Inc., Tularosa Communications, Inc., Valley Telephone Cooperative, Inc., and Western New Mexico Telephone Company, Inc. NM Fiber Network will concentrate on offering high-speed fiberoptic backbone capabilities to owners and other telecommunications providers and direct business customers such as hospitals, schools, and government agencies.

Visit <u>http://www.nmfibernetwork.com</u> to discover more about NM Fiber Network.