



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Gallup's Michael Sage Wins 40 Under 40 in Economic Development Award

Gallup, NM – Michael Sage, Deputy Director for the Greater Gallup Economic Development Corporation (GGEDC) and Regional Economic Development Manager for the Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments (NWNMCOG) has been announced as a recipient of the 2023 Economic Development 40 Under 40 Award, the national biennial award recognizing rising stars under 40 years old in the economic development industry.

The awards program is hosted by Development Counsellors International (DCI), a New York-based integrated marketing firm that works with economic development and travel organizations around the globe, and Jorgenson Consulting, a leading national executive search firm serving organizations in non-profit, economic, and community development industries. An independent selection committee of six economic development leaders and site selection consultants evaluated nominations based on demonstration of strong leadership, commitment and innovation every day in the workplace.

"The purpose-driven work of economic development plays a vital role in communities around the world, and much of it is led by young professionals," said Julie Curtin,

president of DCI's economic development practice. "These 40 rising stars are contributing their creativity, dedication and leadership to make a tremendous impact in their communities and our industry as a whole, and I so look forward to what lies ahead in their careers."

"We are absolutely thrilled that Michael Sage has received this prestigious recognition it is well deserved", said GGEDC Executive Director Patty Lundstrom. "This is national recognition based on his superior economic development leadership."

"We are blessed to have Michael leading our region's economic transformation. His knowledge, approach, and skill set are invaluable to creating generational impact in equitable community and economic development", said Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments Executive Director Evan Williams. "His commitment and ability to respect and balance a multitude of values, jurisdictions, and place-based goals makes him a unique talent."

Michael Sage is a Certified Economic Developer (CEcD) with 17 years of experience in economic development. In his tenure with the GGEDC, Mr. Sage has contributed to several successful initiatives including the retention of McKinley Paper in Prewitt, NM, the launch of the Greater Gallup Industrial Workforce Program, and the creation of a business retention and expansion program which has since been nationally recognized. In his current role with the NWNMCOG, Mr. Sage manages a \$900,000 revolving loan fund. Michael Sage was previously selected as the 2021 Developer of the Year by the NM IDEA – New Mexico Industrial Developers Executive Association, a statewide association of economic development professionals and organizations.

"The economic development industry continues to evolve, and these rising leaders are stepping up to the challenge," said Todd Jorgenson, managing director and principal of Jorgenson Consulting, Inc. "Congratulations to these 40 winners – and to the communities that are lucky to benefit from their expertise."

Award winners were announced at the International Economic Development Council (IEDC) 2023 Leadership Summit, the only conference held exclusively for Certified Economic Developers and senior managers in the profession.

For more information on the 40 Under 40 awards program and this year's winners, visit econdev40under40.com.

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Greater Gallup Economic Development Corporation

The GGEDC is a 501c3 nonprofit serving as the economic development organization for the City of Gallup and McKinley County. It is the mission of the GGEDC to drive economic growth through building on local assets and strategic partnering to target attraction, retention & expansion of industrial employers that provide economic base jobs in the Gallup-McKinley County area, and to support & promote a business-friendly environment.

Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments

The NWNMCOG has a dual designation as a regional planning agency for the State of New Mexico and economic development district for the US Economic Development Administration. As a member association, the NWNMCOG has worked with the region's local governments for over 50 years to support community development, promote strategic innovation and propel regional competitiveness.

About DCI

Development Counsellors International (DCI) is the leader in travel, economic development and talent attraction marketing. Since 1960, DCI has worked with more than 500 cities, regions, states and countries, helping them attract business investors, visitors and workers. DCI has offices in New York and Denver. For more information, visit aboutdci.com or follow [@aboutDCI](https://twitter.com/aboutDCI) on Twitter.

About Jorgenson Consulting

Founded in 1992, Jorgenson Consulting has worked diligently over the past 29 years to establish itself as a premier national executive search firm. With a focus on the fields of non-profit, economic and community development, we partner with our clients to help them identify and secure the highest caliber of executive talent. Our goal is to develop a thorough understanding of our clients and leverage that knowledge with our own expertise and resources to source executive talent that can truly serve the organization by yielding economic benefits while also contributing to a community's competitive advantage. www.jci-inc.net