

## NEWS RELEASE

May 25, 2011

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **BACA AND BURCH INDUCTED INTO SOE HALL OF FAME**

Silver City, NM – Lifelong educators Fred Baca and Margaret Burch were recently inducted into the School of Education Hall of Fame.

Baca is a '74 and '76 graduate from Western New Mexico University. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in elementary education with a bilingual endorsement and two years later earned a Master of Arts degree in guidance and counseling.

Baca recently retired from teaching after a 36-year career at G.W. Stout Elementary in Silver City. His career highlights include being named Teacher of the Year and New Mexico Educator of the Year in 1989, Teacher of the Month in 1993, Educator of the Year in 2001 and 2003, LULAC Man of the Year in 1991 and 1998, Walmart Teacher of the Year in 1998 and NM LULAC Educator of the Year in 2007.

Margaret Burch is a '74 WNMU alumnus. Burch earned her Master of Arts degree in business administration at WNMU and her Bachelor of Arts degree in government and sociology from the University of Texas at Austin in 1947.

Burch's teaching career spanned 33 years beginning in 1947 when she taught grades 1-8 at a one-room school in Orogrande, New Mexico for four years. In 1953, she began an 11-year career teaching grades 3-5 at Oregon School in Alomogordo. From 1964 through 1973, Burch taught social studies and sponsored the Student Council at Mid-High School in Alomogordo. Burch ended her career in 1984 after serving as Assistant Principal at Mid-High School for 11 years. She was inducted posthumously.

The WNMU Education Hall of Fame was founded in 1985 to recognize and honor exemplary classroom teachers and to serve as a depository of record for the accomplishments of those selected.



***Pictured from left to right are WNMU President Dr. John Counts, Fred Baca, Margaret Burch's grandson Matthew Burch, and School of Education Dean Dr. Patricia Manzanarez-Gonzales.***

*Located in Silver City, New Mexico, Western New Mexico University has served the people of the state of New Mexico and its surrounding areas as a comprehensive, regional, rural, public coeducational university since 1893 and caters to a student body diverse in age, culture, language and ethnic background.*

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