

Chuck Riggs
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Candidate Statement
Vice President

My dedication to the Pecos Conference speaks for itself, having now organized it four times. The first time I served as the Program Chair and the face of the conference when it was held at McPhee Reservoir in 2009. Then, when it was clear that no one was interested in hosting the 2010 conference, I volunteered to organize it once again the following year. Having been a conference attendee since sometime in the 1990s, I was personally concerned by what seemed to be declining professional interest. So, in Silverton in 2010 I made a commitment to host every five years, having done so in 2015 and again in 2021 (2020 was canceled due to COVID). In every instance where I have served as the principal organizer, I have not only successfully managed the conference, but have been able to return significant revenue, which has further enhanced the Pecos Conference's long-term stability. My philosophy as organizer, which is central to my personal relationship to the Pecos Conference, has been one of true service, never having taken any salary or paid any volunteers. In 2021, I made registration free to all Indigenous participants, as a small step in recognizing the centrality of Indigenous history to the Pecos Conference and to the careers of those who participate.

As the foregoing statement makes clear, I feel a deep personal responsibility to the success of the Pecos Conference and therefore I seek to become board Vice President. My experience as a regular organizer and my commitment to the conference's long-term stability provide me with important insights that will serve to move the organization forward in positive ways. In closing, I am deeply grateful for the many opportunities I have had to serve the Pecos Conference and I hope that my candidacy for Vice president will be looked upon favorably by conference participants.