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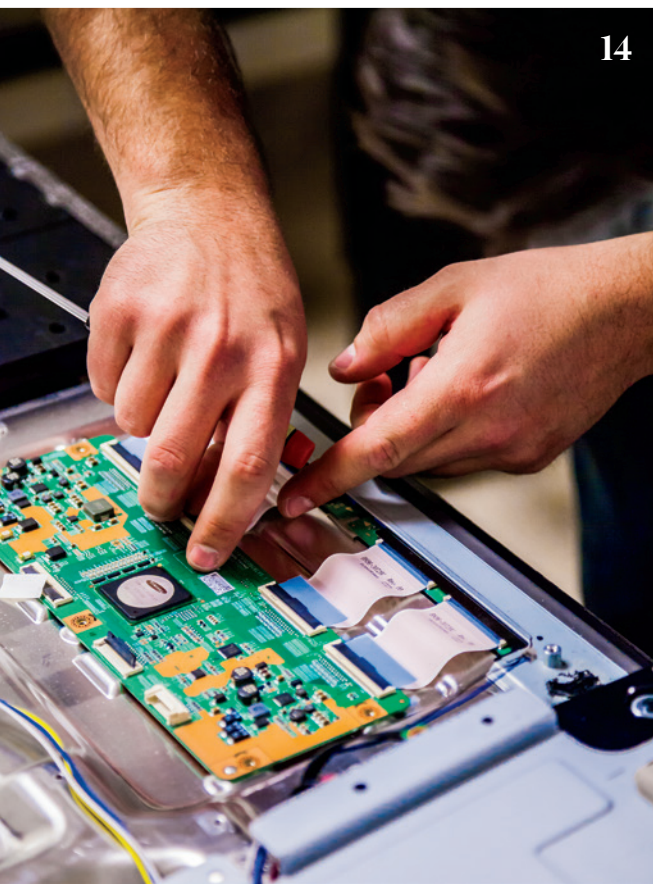
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Colorful balloons fill the skies over Sandoval County, one of New Mexico's fastest-growing and most-livable communities.

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## ALL THERE IS ABOUT SANDOVAL COUNTY



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# RIO RANCHO

## & SANDOVAL COUNTY, NEW MEXICO

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### GOOD COMPANY

The region hosts operations for a number of advanced manufacturing operations for major companies, including Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman. The renowned chipmaker Intel has invested more than \$15 billion in its Rio Rancho operations since it came to New Mexico in 1980.

## Where the Sun Shines

At one mile above sea level (5,290 feet), Sandoval County has a comfortable high-desert climate and approximately 300 days of sunshine a year, and residents have great views of the Sandia Mountains.

### BEAUTIFUL ON THE OUTSIDE

If you like the outdoors and nature, inspiring must-see attractions throughout Sandoval County include Bandelier National Monument, Battleship Rock, Continental Divide Trail, Coronado Historic Site, Gilman Tunnels, Jemez Falls, Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument, Sandia Man Cave and Valles Caldera National Preserve. Residents have access to forty parks, five trails and two sports complexes.

THE  
**4-1-1**  
 ON LIVING, WORKING  
 AND EXPERIENCING  
 RIO RANCHO AND  
 SANDOVAL COUNTY

## On the Grow

Sandoval County is currently the fastest-growing county in New Mexico.

RIO RANCHO'S POPULATION WAS 87,521 RESIDENTS IN 2010 AND IS PROJECTED TO SEE A

# 21% increase

TO 106,000 IN 2020.

### EASY TO GET AROUND

Average commute time is 21 minutes, and 15 minutes or less for 60% of commuters.

## The Good Life

Rio Rancho and Sandoval County offer residents affordability. Median household income is \$60,345 in Sandoval County and more than \$63,000 in Rio Rancho, while the median home price is \$183,300. Sandoval County and Rio Rancho are known for low crime rates and for being among the safest places in New Mexico. Rio Rancho and the village of Corrales are ranked in the top 10 for safest New Mexico communities by SafeWise.



## WELL-SCHOOLED

Sandoval County offers consistently high-performing public schools, with many ranked among the best in the state. The ASK Academy in Rio Rancho, for example, was named the No. 6 high school in the state by *U.S. News & World Report*.

### PLENTY OF SMARTS

Nearly seven in 10 Rio Rancho residents over age 25 have at least some college experience, well above state and U.S. levels, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

PHOTOS, FROM TOP: WALDEN KIRSCH/INTEL CORPORATION; NEW MEXICO TOURISM DEPARTMENT

# Discover Sandoval County

One of New Mexico's fastest-growing places,  
Rio Rancho and Sandoval County offer  
affordability, diversity and a standout quality of life



## All Bottled Up

With a rich history of winemaking, Sandoval County is home to five award-winning wineries.

In 1978, the wine industry in Sandoval County and New Mexico benefited from a government-sponsored study, which encouraged winegrowers to plant French hybrid grape varieties. Today, the industry is flourishing.

Sandoval County markets itself as the oldest winegrowing region in the U.S. Wineries operating in Sandoval County include **Acequia Vineyards & Winery** in Corrales, **Corrales Winery** in Corrales, **Matheson Wine Co.** in Rio Rancho, **Milagro Vineyards** in Corrales and **Ponderosa Valley Vineyards & Winery** in Ponderosa.



## Work in Progress

**FatPipe**, a collaborative coworking space, has opened a location in Rio Rancho – its second location in the region. FatPipe's Rio Rancho space is in the AMREP Building on Rio Rancho Boulevard, where tenants have access to a courtyard as well as panoramic window views of the Sandia Mountains.

The modern coworking facility is designed to meet the needs of entrepreneurs, freelancers and small companies. Amenities include fast internet, a lounge area, kitchen facilities and a rich program of networking events.



The Friends of Coronado  
Fiesta of Cultures



## Going Places

Two of New Mexico's most popular visitor attractions are in Sandoval County.

**Casa San Ysidro: The Gutiérrez-Minge House** in Corrales is a historic house that is part of the Albuquerque Museum. The original home, built by the Gutiérrez family, dates back to the 1870s. Today, Casa San Ysidro also includes Alan and Shirley Minge's re-creation of a 19th-century rancho, complete with a small family chapel, a central plazuela and an enclosed corral area. The house is filled with folk art, textiles and furniture collections.

**Coronado State Monument** in Bernalillo is named for Francisco Vazquez de Coronado, who camped at the site with his soldiers in 1540 while searching for the fabled Cities of Gold. Today, a one-fifth-mile interpretive trail leads to Kuaua Hall, which features mural art, along with Native American and Spanish Colonial artifacts. A children's wing interprets the history of Central New Mexico.

## Glass Act

Rio Rancho and Sandoval County have attracted a number of major companies that maintain operations in the region.

One of the more recent arrivals is **Safelite AutoGlass**, which opened a customer care center in Rio Rancho in 2017. The company, which is based in Ohio, is the nation's largest vehicle glass repair and replacement service provider. The Rio Rancho location is the company's fifth networked facility serving U.S. time zones.

The more than 800 workers at the center handle calls from customers as well as calls involving Safelite branch offices or insurance clients.

The company committed to bringing employment at the center to 900 positions by 2020.



## In Good Taste

A popular craft brewer has tapped Rio Rancho for its new headquarters. **Bosque Brewing** moved its headquarters from Albuquerque to new digs in a 24,000-square-foot building on Innovation Way.

The new digs include office space for administrative staff, employee training activities and 8,000 square feet of warehouse space.

Bosque Brewing, founded in 2012, distributes its products to 1,000 accounts throughout the state and exports to Chile.

The company operates a number of brewing locations in the region, including one on U.S. 550 in Bernalillo near the Santa Ana Star Casino Hotel. That brewery's 10 offerings include popular brands like Open Space Haze, Driftwood Oatmeal Stout, Take on Mead and Old Man Jameson.

# #1

## RIO RANCHO IS THE TOP PLACE TO LIVE IN NEW MEXICO

Source: Money Magazine, 2018

### Did you know?

Utility PNM's 6.4-megawatt Sandoval County Solar Energy Center houses approximately **75,590 solar panels** and generates enough energy to serve **2,450 average customers.**

# #2

## RIO RANCHO PUBLIC SCHOOLS, BEST SCHOOL DISTRICTS IN NEW MEXICO

Source: Niche, 2018

# #1

## MOST DIVERSE CITY IN NEW MEXICO

Source: Niche, 2017

# The Future IS NOW

*Innovation meets opportunity in Sandoval County*

By Bill Lewis

**S**andoval County's innovation economy is fueled by technology-driven firms turning new ideas into world-changing reality while creating the jobs of tomorrow for the skilled workforce they need to succeed.

Those companies operate in leading-edge sectors, including aerospace, optics, computer technology, communication and solar energy. In addition to the educated workforce that helps them thrive, Sandoval County offers proximity to key research assets, including the University of New Mexico and Sandia National Laboratories.

The business advantages of being located in Sandoval County were obvious to the leaders of Ideum.

The standout quality of life was a bonus that has made it easy to recruit and retain top talent for its operations in Corrales.

"We are thrilled to be here in Corrales and in Sandoval County,"

**"The quality of life and cost of living in New Mexico make it a very attractive place to do business and raise a family."**

– Genevieve Brown/Ideum

says Jim Spadaccini, Ideum's founder and creative director. "It is a great place to live and work. Over the years, we've assembled a fantastic interdisciplinary team that feels the same way. We've been able to work on creative projects

with some of the best-known museums in the country and Fortune 500 companies while calling New Mexico home."

Ideum is a creative company focused on using emerging technologies to

design public installations and products that lead to meaningful user experiences. The company creates unique products and engaging interactive exhibits for a wide range of clients and contexts. It uses immersive digital tools, like touch tables,

video walls, projection mapping and other technologies, to tell stories and create compelling visitor experiences.

## **ThreeSixty View**

The region hosts a number of advanced manufacturing operations for major companies, including Boeing, Lockheed Martin and Northrop Grumman. The tech sector includes ThreeSixty Engineered Systems, a Rio Rancho-based company that designs intercom and paging systems.

ThreeSixty moved to its Rio Rancho location in 2017. The location almost quadrupled available office and factory space, allowing the company to accommodate rapid growth generated by new products.

Powerhouse research assets, such as Sandia National Laboratories, give the region a decided advantage in drawing innovative companies.





*First founded in California, Ideum is a 19-year-old interactive design firm now based in Sandoval County. Ideum is the largest employer in Corrales.*



“Primary reasons for the move from Albuquerque included more favorable tax rates, a much lower crime rate and some of the best public schools in New Mexico,” says Craig Tayler, vice president of sales and marketing. “Additionally, the overall cost of living is very low compared to other cities of similar size around the country.”

ThreeSixty is part of a growing number of technology-based firms that have made the choice to locate within the community, alongside other well-known tech giants such as Intel, Tayler says.

The company was pleased to discover the city maintains a wide range of affordable housing options, including unique developments such as Mariposa, a world-class planned community developed around the natural terrain and offering spectacular mountain views.

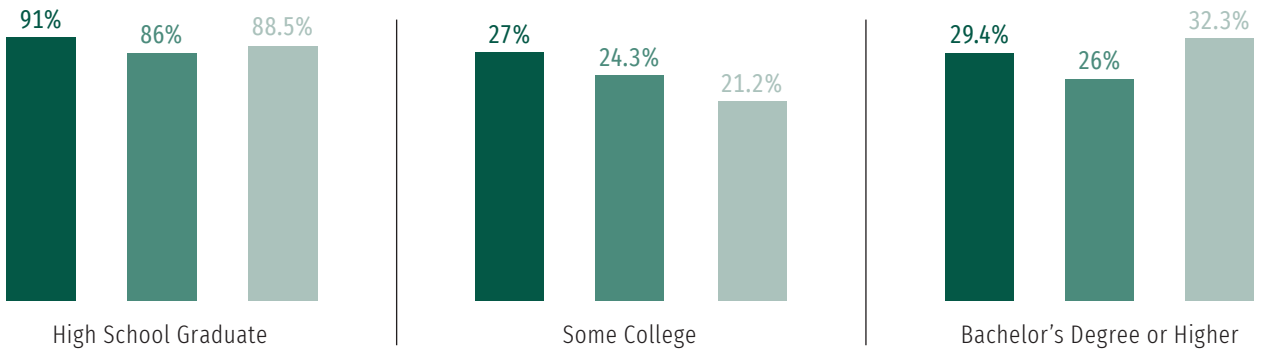
### **Unparalleled Quality of Life**

“Most importantly, for businesses considering a move to the community, Rio Rancho’s city government goes out of its way to interact with both business and its residents through a variety of town-hall-like events throughout the year,” says Tayler.

One of New Mexico’s most famous companies, chipmaker Intel, has had operations in the state since 1980 and today employs about 1,200 at its Rio Rancho campus. Intel manufactures microprocessor technology that powers data centers and hundreds of millions

## EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

(Sandoval County // New Mexico // U.S.)



—Source: American Community Survey

of smart and connected devices worldwide.

Rio Rancho has also been an important site for development and manufacturing of Intel Silicon Photonics, a new class of high-speed optical connectivity that replaces copper wires with fiber optics for data

transmission. Intel's 3D Xpoint Technology Development and NAND Research and Pathfinding teams work at the site.

The first time Ideum owners Spadaccini and Angela Arzave traveled to New Mexico, they fell in love with the Land of Enchantment,

says spokeswoman Genevieve Brown.

"The quality of life and cost of living in New Mexico make it a very attractive place to do business and raise a family," she says. "While Ideum now attracts candidates from all over the country, we have access to a large

local pool of qualified and well-educated workforce. The support we receive from the Sandoval Economic Alliance, the state's Job Training Incentive Program and other programs have been crucial to our success."

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# Cultured PEARLS

From pueblos to pottery and glasswork to gourds, Sandoval County is an arts destination

By Kevin Litwin



**A**ward-winning artist Barbara Clark only has to step out her front door to find inspiration. The talented painter lives in the charming village of Corrales, minutes from Rio Rancho, but a world away from the pace of the city.

“I know how lucky I am to live here. There are no golden arches, no neon signs or even a grocery store,” says Clark, who, along with Susana Erling, a wire and paper sculptor and painter, owns Corrales Fine Arts. The pair creates and exhibits their work there, along with curated pieces from other local talents. Particularly popular are Clark’s hand-painted wine glasses and front license plates.

“You can’t throw a stick without hitting another artist. The support for each other in the artistic community is abundant,” she adds.

The picturesque rural hamlet, which has been called Mayberry on the Rio Grande, is a certified New Mexico Arts & Cultural District and is home to the historic Old San Ysidro Church, built in 1868 and today a popular cultural events venue.

Clark’s business is located in the Mercado de Maya, a creative strip of other galleries and inviting places

along Corrales Road, the main drag in the heart of town, which includes the Corrales Bosque Gallery, an artist-owned cooperative established in 1994. Inside is an eclectic display of New Mexico visual fine arts and crafts available in a reasonable range of prices. A short distance away is the

**“The support for each other in the artistic community is abundant.”**

– Barbara Clark/Artist

recently opened Corrales Arts Center, where a wide variety of visual and performing arts classes for adults and children, concerts from jazz to opera and a gallery are offered.

Not to be missed is the Corrales Art and Studio Tour that is presented by the Corrales Society of Artists each May, representing nearly

80 artists and is a key date on the New Mexico creative calendar.

“I like to say, ‘We all do better when we all do better,’” says Clark. “I’m thrilled to promote other artists, and I enjoy seeing arts growing and being elevated in Corrales.”

For those who enjoy the vibe of a larger venue, the city of Rio Rancho’s Santa Ana Star Center is a 7,000-seat multipurpose arena that has an exciting lineup of concerts, live comedy shows and the highly anticipated Pork and Brew Food Festival. The three-day cook-off brings together some of the region’s best barbecue cooks, beer, live music and family activities.

Less than a half-hour drive northeast of Corrales is the city of Bernalillo, where the Angus McDougall Gallery is located behind the Range Café. The gallery showcases fine artwork by contemporary New Mexican artists in an old adobe structure and is open by appointment.

Another quaint hamlet in Sandoval County is Jemez Springs, a serene place of soothing hot mineral springs



and stunning natural wonders, including the Jemez Mountains.

It is from Mother Nature's plentiful bounty here that Elizabeth Janecka handcrafts her 100% natural skin care and mineral makeup lines. The Janecka Collection has grown to include free-form pottery, jewelry, furniture and guitars created by her children.

The Wesley Janecka custom minimalist-designed furniture is prized with collectors because of its thoughtful designs, clean lines and turquoise stones inlaid into the wood's knots, holes and cracks.

"I started the natural skin care as a necessity for myself, and it grew alongside the handcrafted items our family makes," Janecka says. "We create everything ourselves to ensure the Janecka brand quality. Our products are all New Mexico True Certified. We draw our inspiration from the beautiful views from our studio, which is located between the two mesas, Virgin Mesa and Cat Mesa, in the Jemez Mountains."

ILLUSTRATION: ISTOCK.COM/INVINCIBLE\_BULLDOG

## Shh, Movie's Starting

FILM AND TELEVISION PRODUCTION INDUSTRY EARN A STARRING ROLE IN SANDOVAL COUNTY

By Kevin Litwin

Lights, camera, Sandoval!

The region is becoming an increasingly popular location for film and television location shooting, with nearly 70 productions shot at locales across Sandoval County in recent years.

That includes more than 25 television shows and films shot in Rio Rancho alone, including well-known productions, such as *Fright Night*, *Dreamland*, *2 Guns*, *Dark Country* and the pilot episode and Season 1 shooting of *Breaking Bad*. Even the tiny census-designated community of Algodones has hosted film crews involved with productions such as *Wildfire*, *Urban Justice*, *Blood Brothers* and *Terminator Salvation*.

Other Sandoval County communities that have welcomed productions are Placitas (*Breaking Bad*, Season 4) and Bernalillo (*Graves*, Season 2). Sandoval

County officials predict that the local film industry will get even stronger in the near future, especially thanks to a New Mexico law passed in 2019 that provides more incentives to companies that lease or buy film studios in the state and commit to filming in New Mexico for 10 years. Local officials add that another plus is that the scenery and culture of Sandoval County is unique for filming, unlike anywhere else in the United States.

Sandoval County has several businesses that support film and television production, including DHP Multimedia, which provides creative services and technical talent to produce high-end commercial and internet productions, and Edit House Productions, a Rio Rancho company that specializes in TV commercials and documentaries.

# THE *Right Place*

From Intel to HP, companies are finding success and talent in Rio Rancho and Sandoval County





PHOTO: WALDEN KIRSCH/INTEL CORPORATION

*By Bill Lewis*

Companies as diverse as chipmaker Intel, structural steel manufacturer Amfabsteel and Bosque Brewing Company have something in common. All are growing, investing and creating jobs in Rio Rancho and Sandoval County.

They have discovered the community's advantages of being an inviting central New Mexico location for business investment and a place to live, including affordability, a highly educated workforce and superior infrastructure that provides quick access to major markets in the United States and Mexico.

Intel, one of the region's most famous enterprises, has invested more than \$15 billion in its chipmaking and research operations in Rio Rancho, where it established operations in 1980 and now employs about 1,200 people. The company, in fall 2018, announced it was transferring development of new storage and memory technology to the facility.

Intel said it would add more than 300 jobs in Rio Rancho in 2019.

"The Rio Rancho site continues to be an important part of Intel's global manufacturing network, and is manufacturing semiconductor products that are critical to Intel's ability to secure, power and connect billions of devices and the infrastructure of the smart, connected world," says Katie



Intel has been a fixture in Sandoval County for nearly four decades.

Prouty, Intel Rio Rancho site manager.

Bosque Brewing, a microbrewery founded in New Mexico, showed the same level of confidence when it announced its move to a nearly 24,000-square-foot facility on Innovation Way in Rio Rancho, which more than doubled the size of its former location.

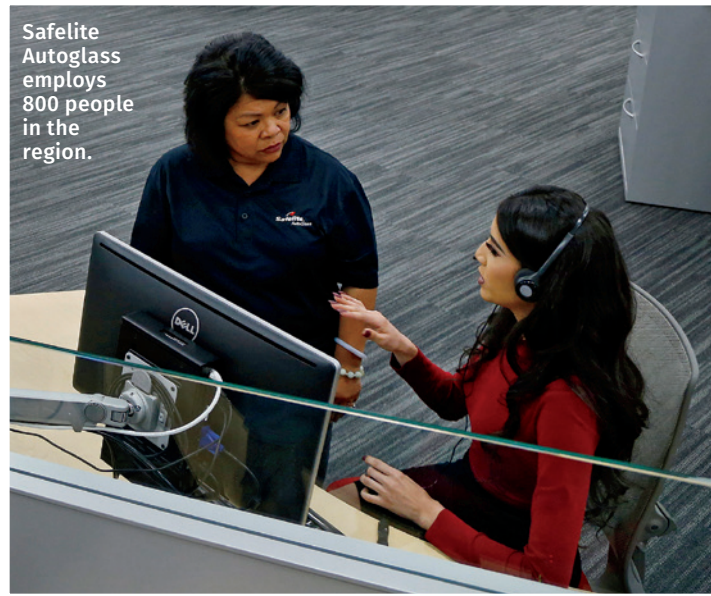
“Innovation Way will allow our leadership and administrative teams the ability to collaborate and grow as individuals and as an organization,” says Nick Seid, a manager for Bosque.

### Power of Incentives

Steel fabricator Amfabsteel Inc. announced expansions that are creating about 80 new jobs in Bernalillo. The company is investing \$8 million over several years and adding 75,000 square feet to its manufacturing facility. The expansion more than doubles the size of the plant, where the company manufactures structural steel for large buildings. Most of the steel is made for out-of-state-clients.

The company’s expansions are an example of the power of New Mexico’s incentives program. The state offered Local Economic Development Act funding, used to recruit new businesses and help existing businesses grow. Amfabsteel also qualified for job training incentives.

The highly qualified workforce is a major advantage for businesses in Sandoval County. About two-thirds of all residents have some form of post-secondary education, compared to 59% for New Mexico in general and 60% nationally.



Safelite Autoglass employs 800 people in the region.

More than 35% of Sandoval County’s residents have completed some college or an associate’s degree, and another 30.1% hold a bachelor’s degree. Of those, 41% are in a field related to science and engineering.

Educational assets include Central New Mexico Community College and the University of New Mexico, which have campuses in Sandoval County. They provide CTE (career and technical education) and other training to meet employers’ needs and

tailor educational programs to develop in-demand skills.

### Deep Labor Pool

In addition to education, workforce availability is a major plus. Seventy-five percent of workers commute out each day, representing a pool of more than 43,000 workers who potentially could be hired locally. In addition, businesses in Sandoval County can recruit from a pool of 334,000 workers in the surrounding labor

## Top Employers in Sandoval County

**Rio Rancho Public Schools:** 1,960

**Sandia Pueblo Resort:** 1,800

**Intel:** 1,500

**Safelite Autoglass:** 800

**Hewlett-Packard:** 750

**Alliance Data:** 700

**Convergys/Stream Global:** 650

**City of Rio Rancho:** 600

**Sandoval County:** 495

**Tamaya Hyatt Regency Resort:** 350

**S&P Data:** 346

**US Cotton:** 250

shed. Many have some form of post-secondary or technical training. Financial and technology support centers that have a diverse customer base find another benefit in Sandoval County, which has a large bilingual workforce. Nearly 25% of the population speaks a language other than English.

The workforce is a major advantage for companies in technology-driven sectors, including aerospace, optics, electronics, solar energy, life sciences and biotech. In addition to Intel, globally known companies with operations in Sandoval County include Hewlett-Packard and Safelite. The region has found success in attracting customer support and back-office operations, such as Convergys, which has major operations in the county.

The combination of economic opportunity and the standout quality

of life make Sandoval County a good place to live, work and raise a family. The fast-growing region of 142,500 saw its population increase by more than 8% between 2010 and 2017, far outpacing the surrounding metro area, New Mexico and the U.S.

Sandoval County is affordable compared to coastal markets, offering competitive pricing on real estate and utilities.

Sandoval County's advantages make it a destination for companies across a number of sectors, including biomedical testing and labs, medical supplies, medical technology, financial and technology support centers, cybersecurity, data centers and advanced technology and manufacturing.

"Incentives, cost of living, affordability and a skilled workforce are our No. 1 draws for these types of jobs," says Tiffany Avery of the Sandoval Economic Alliance.

Find more about the companies that call Sandoval County home at [livability.com/nm/rio-rancho](http://livability.com/nm/rio-rancho)



Bosque Brewing moved its headquarters to Rio Rancho.

**1/3** RESIDENTS SPEAK BOTH ENGLISH AND SPANISH 'VERY WELL'

*Amfabsteel Inc.'s investment in Bernalillo:*

- \$8M
- 75K SQUARE FEET
- 80 NEW JOBS

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# The Bright Spot of New Mexico

SANDOVAL COUNTY



# LET'S DO BUSINESS

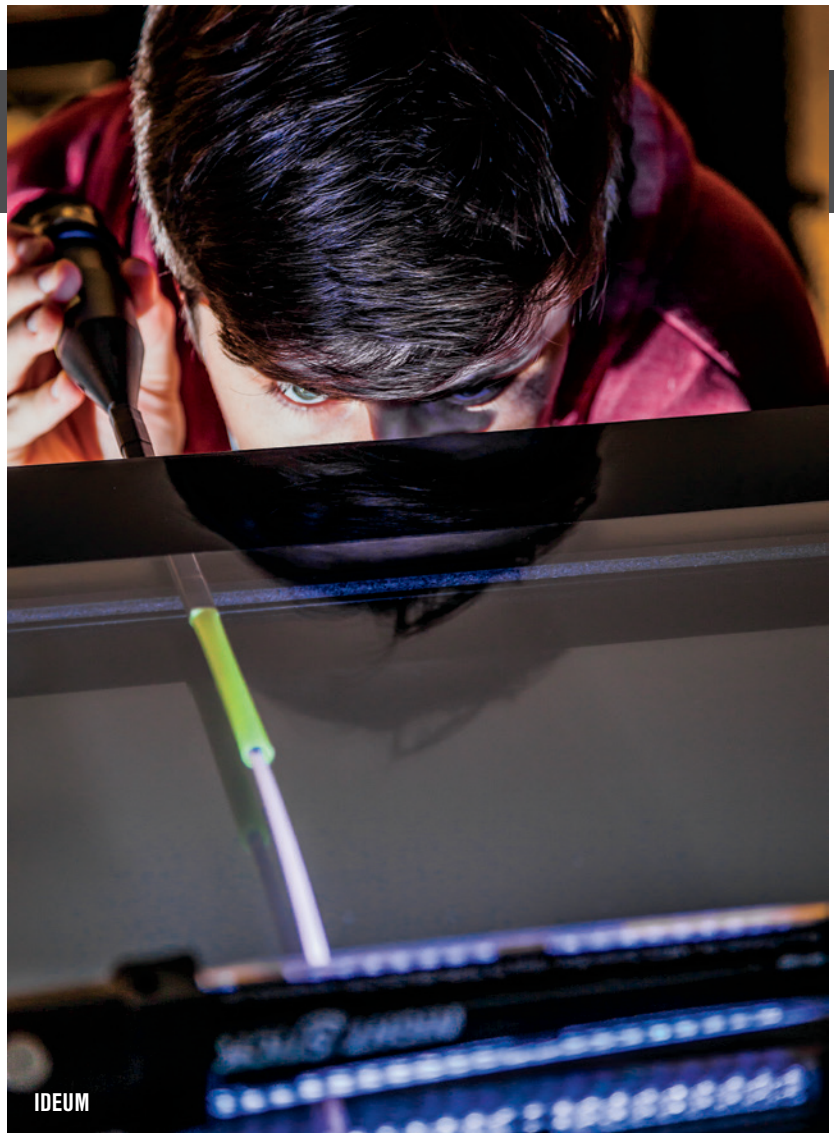
If you want to do business in New Mexico, look no further than Sandoval County and Rio Rancho.

As a part of the state's largest metro, the county offers forward-thinking business leaders and entrepreneurs in an environment that encourages growth and innovation.

The county of approximately 142,000 possesses a highly educated workforce – nearly 67 percent of all residents have some form of post-secondary education – making it one of the best-educated communities in New Mexico.

Industrial space and land assets are in high demand, with Rio Rancho having 17 percent of all of the industrial square footage in the Albuquerque Metro area.

In addition, Sandoval County and Rio Rancho offer competitive and unique incentives to job creators to help reduce the overall cost of doing business here.



PRESBYTERIAN RUST MEDICAL CENTER

## HITTING **THE TARGET**

Sandoval County has three primary target industry clusters – **Life Sciences, Professional Services & Support** and **Advanced Technology & Manufacturing**.

The fastest growing of the segments is health care, followed by industrial machinery, biomedical, creative content and software/IT. Manufacturing is the largest source of income generation.

The **Life Sciences** cluster, with more than 300 jobs, covers a range of technology, products and services that focuses on human, crop and biological health and management.

The **Professional Services & Support** cluster encompasses a variety of operations that primarily serve other businesses or specific roles in a broader corporate structure. Sandoval County currently has more than 3,100 jobs in this sector.

The **Advanced Technology & Manufacturing** cluster includes businesses that transform raw materials into high-value components and finished products using complex machinery. This cluster is three times more concentrated in Sandoval County than the U.S. average.



ZIA PUEBLO

## ARE YOU READY? **WE ARE.**

Sandoval Economic Alliance offers VeriReady Sites – a verified sites program – to prospective builders.

The VeriReady site designation is designed to identify both publicly and privately owned sites throughout Rio Rancho and Sandoval County that are suitable for immediate development or expansion.



The Verified Sites program of Sandoval Economic Alliance.

The program gathers uniform information to increase both the quality of site documentation and the overall number of sites that are ready for development. Sandoval Economic Alliance actively markets these sites to regional, national and international site selectors, helping the county stand out against the competition.

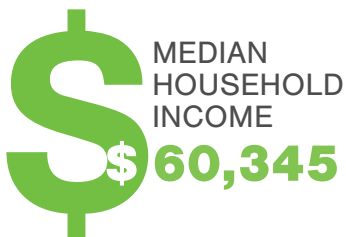
The Alliance also offers ReadyBuild – a Virtual Buildings program – to accelerate development time frames for a potential employer tenant,



providing building development/design services for 40,000 to 80,000 square feet of flexible space.

The virtual building has all the required elements in place to allow economic development prospects to easily visualize a building on a site, offering advantages over constructing on spec, reducing the construction time frame by 2-3 months.

### SANDOVAL COUNTY



**FUN FACT**



Rio Rancho is one of the state's newest cities, founded in 1981. Conversely, the Town of Bernalillo, which is the county seat, is one of the oldest towns in the nation.

Source: U.S. Census (2017)



JEMEZ SPRINGS

# Life IS GOOD!

Sandoval County has set high standards for its quality of life, which is why many people are choosing to put down roots here.

The area offers a temperate, four-season climate with approximately 300 days of sunshine, affordable housing options and one of the state's lowest crime rates.

In fact, Corrales and Rio Rancho are both consistently ranked in the Top 10 safest cities in the state by Safewise, while Sandoval County is ranked No. 2 for the safest New Mexico counties.

Rio Rancho's public school system is considered one of the best-performing school districts in the state and is New Mexico's third-largest district, with 17,711 students. The University of New Mexico and Central New Mexico Community College both have campuses in the county.

Sandoval's cost of living is lower than the national average, offering an affordable quality of life. The economic hub of the county is Rio Rancho.

Residents can enjoy a diverse array of year-round outdoor



activities, including golf, biking, skiing and snowshoeing, hiking, fishing, hunting, hot-air ballooning and water sports such as kayaking, paddleboarding, swimming and windsurfing.

The county's two hospitals offer a wide range of medical services and local treatment options for residents.

Residents also appreciate the area's cultural diversity, which includes 12 Indian reservations and two joint-use areas. Authentic celebrations, captivating artwork, museums and historical sites, such as the Jemez and Coronado Historic Sites, Valles Caldera National Preserve and the Bandelier National Monument, make Sandoval County a colorful and harmonious place to live and work.

"I love the geography here. We tell people this is the best of Denver and the best of Phoenix. You get the high desert and mountains, but it's not as hot as Phoenix or as cold as Denver."

**Pat Vincent-Collawn**, Chairman  
President & CEO of PNM Resources

## SANDOVAL COUNTY TOP EMPLOYERS

INTEL CORPORATION

HEWLETT-PACKARD

SAFELITE SOLUTIONS GROUP

IDEUM

S&P DATA

BANK OF AMERICA

AERSALE

AEROPARTS

ALLIANCE DATA

AMFAB STEEL

CABLE ONE

CONCENTRIX

INSIGHT LIGHTING

LECTROSONICS

SOLAERO TECHNOLOGIES CORP.

US COTTON



Rio Rancho named **BEST PLACE TO LIVE** in New Mexico.

*Money magazine (2018)*

# Package DEAL

Rio Rancho and Sandoval County check all the boxes  
on any young professional's list for a career  
and a place to call home

*By Kari Kynard Ridge*





Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument in Jemez Springs is famous for its scenic cone-shaped formations.

**W**hether you are a 20-something looking for a place to find your footing after college or in your 30s and ready to change jobs, Rio Rancho and Sandoval County should be at the top of your list of potential communities to call home.

Located in Central New Mexico, this region has a wealth of qualities that are not only attracting young talent but keeping skilled workers in the community.

### All the Essentials

With employers like chipmaker Intel and tech company Hewlett-Packard in the area, young professionals are sure to find a job to match their skill sets. However, while working for a good company is a key part of career happiness, a few other factors also play a role, such as commute time, community environment and, of course, affordability.

Hours-long commutes are not the norm in Rio Rancho and Sandoval County, and residents are able to get around with ease. The average commute time is just 21 minutes, and 60% of residents only spend 15 minutes or less behind the wheel.

“If you live and work here, then the commute would be a breeze, says Lauren Hemphill, chair of the Rio Rancho Regional Chamber Visionaries, a young professionals group dedicated to developing a young workforce. “People are not going to have to spend an hour in their car driving back and forth. It’s just a quick trip down the street.”

As far as the community’s environment, the word “inclusive” only begins to describe the area. Many cultures call Sandoval County home, and the percentages of Native American and Hispanic residents are well above the national average.

“We do have lots of different races and different religions here, and I think it is a very welcoming community” Hemphill says. “Rio Rancho itself reminds me a little bit of the Midwest. It has that kind of feel where it is welcoming, and people are friendly, and that’s not necessarily what you’re going to get everywhere.”

## Outdoor Adventures Aplenty



Jemez Historic Site

From perusing selections of locally grown produce to hiking national forest trails to kayaking along the Rio Grande, Rio Rancho and Sandoval County offer a plethora of outdoor activities that are sure to keep residents entertained.

### GROWERS MARKETS

In Rio Rancho, you don't have to travel far to buy in-season fruits and vegetables. As an area rooted in agriculture, residents can stop by one of the many growers markets for a true farm-to-table experience.

### A PARK ABOVE

The first fully inclusive and accessible playground in New Mexico, A Park Above in Rio Rancho offers six acres of recreational opportunity. The park was constructed to universal design standards to create an inclusive social play environment that people of all ages can enjoy.

### SPORTY ATTRACTIONS

You don't have to choose between water and land sports in Sandoval County. With access to three quality golf courses, trails open for Nordic skiing and snowshoeing, and the Rio Grande close by for paddling and kayaking, opportunities for outdoor sporting adventures are nearly endless.

### SPECTACULAR VIEWS

If mountain scenery is what you're craving, you can explore Santa Fe National Forest's 1.6 million acres. And Kasha-Katuwe Tent Rocks National Monument offers the opportunity to hike through the tall cone-shaped rocks that were formed by volcanic ash accumulation and sculpted by millions of years' worth of wind and water exposure.

When it comes to buying a house, the perfect home will not drain a young professional's wallet, as housing costs in Sandoval County are below the national average. The median home value is \$183,300, while the median income is \$60,345, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

### Future Ready

While young adults can build a career in this area, there is no need to pack up and move if kids are on the radar.

Known for its low crime rates, this community offers young families a safe and secure place to live. In fact, Rio Rancho was named the fourth-safest city on the 20 Safest Cities in New Mexico for 2019 list by home security company SafeWise.

As far as schools, children are sure to receive a quality education in the Rio Rancho/Sandoval County area. Rio Rancho High School and V. Sue

Cleveland High School are ranked nationally on the list of Best High Schools by U.S. News & World Report, and both schools give students the opportunity to take Advanced Placement coursework and exams.

"People are looking for a safe community, good schools, good cost of living, and we have all of those things," Hemphill says. "Just with all the community support and the great people in this community, it's a great place to live and work."



“We do have lots of different races and different religions here, and I think it is a very welcoming community.”

– Lauren Hemphill/Rio Rancho Regional Chamber Visionaries

## AFFORDABLE AND EASY TO GET AROUND

**\$60,345**  
Median Income

**\$183,300**  
Median  
Home Value

**28 minutes**  
Average  
Commute Time

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, American Community Survey

# THE RIGHT PATH

Top-rated schools, colleges ensure the region’s industries have access to talent

By Teree Caruthers

New Mexico has long held a reputation for developing and attracting some of the nation’s top talent, and with nearly 70% of residents having at least some college experience, Rio Rancho and Sandoval County are no exception.

The region’s talent base is richly diverse, highly skilled and deep – thanks in large part to top-ranked schools and community colleges and access to the state’s flagship research institution, the University of New Mexico.

## Rooted in STEM

With four school districts, Sandoval County boasts some of the best schools in the state. In fact, three of the high schools in Rio Rancho Public Schools – Rio Rancho and V. Sue Cleveland high schools and Rio Rancho Cyber Academy – reside on the U.S. News & World Report list of Best High Schools, placing in the top 15 schools in the state. The county’s schools have invested heavily in technology and STEM-related programs to help prepare students for careers in the region’s growing high-tech industries.

The ASK Academy, a grade 6 through 12 charter school in Rio Rancho, ranked No. 10 on the U.S. News & World Report list. ASK Academy focuses its curriculum on science and technology, steering students toward biomedical sciences, engineering and design career pathways.

In designing its curriculum, the academy conducted market research and studied projections for job offerings for the next 20 years.

“On the engineering side, we have national laboratories and high-tech firms, such as Intel, that



ILLUSTRATION: ISTOCK.COM/AMEL2001



will be looking for engineers and designers,” says Paul Stephenson, ASK Academy co-founder and director of engineering and design career pathways.

## Career Ready

Stephenson says the academy prepares students for those future jobs by partnering with STEM-related companies to offer students hands-on learning opportunities.

“We have an intern program for our juniors and seniors that allows them to earn high school credit while also getting on-the-job training. Our students are working in hospitals, laboratories, and engineering and design firms. The learning they receive from those types of STEM, real-world experiences is just invaluable,” Stephenson says.

The work is paying off. A recent census of academy alumni show graduates who are “mechanical engineers, science technicians and graduates with neuroscience degrees. We’ve got a pretty impressive list. Now, would they have done that without us being around? I don’t know, but I’d like to think that many of them are successful because of the career choice shaping experiences we provide for these learners,” he says.

## A Matter of Degrees

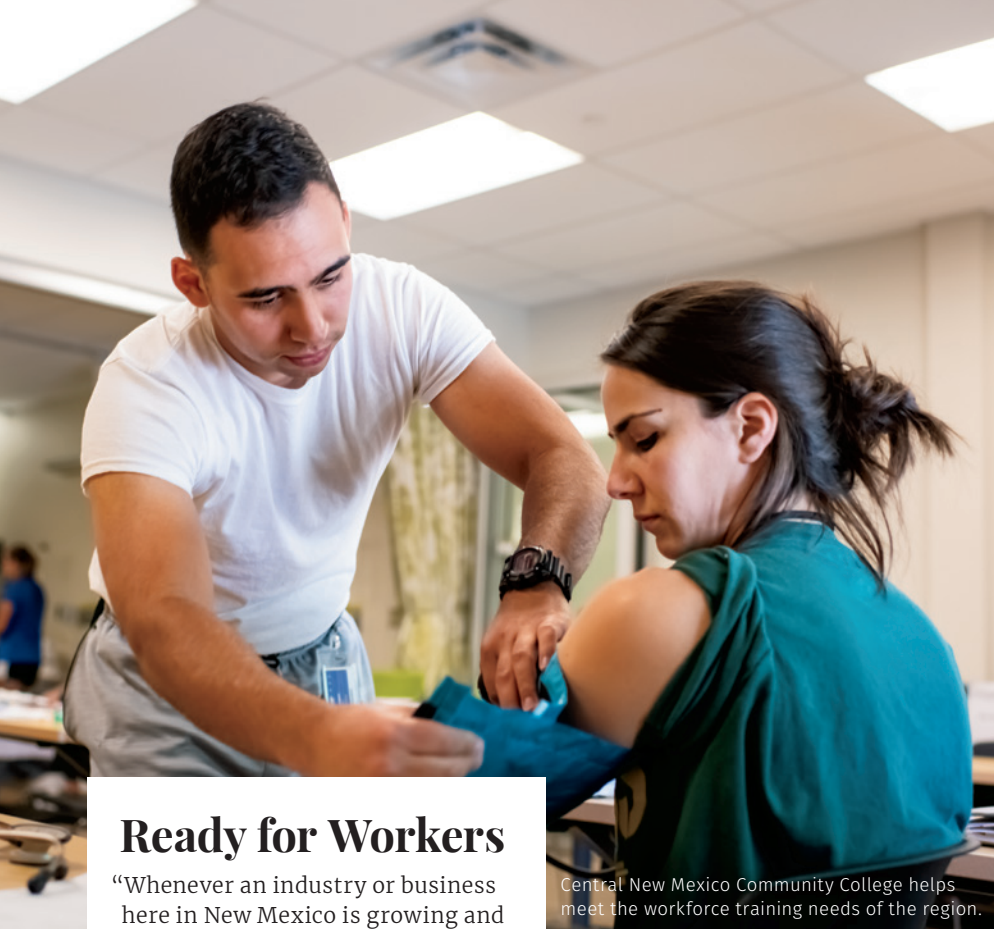
The school also offers dual enrollment college credit for Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) and the University of New Mexico – both of which have campuses in Sandoval County – and offers a pipeline for the institutions’ science and engineering programs.

As the state’s largest institution of higher education in terms of undergraduate enrollment, CNM has a well-earned reputation for being responsive to the workforce needs of local business and industry. CNM offers associate degrees, certificates and training programs in more than 200 subjects – from biotechnology and nursing to computer science and teacher education.



## GREEN CAMPUS

The 62,000-square-foot Rio Rancho campus of Central New Mexico Community College is one of the largest higher education buildings in the state to earn the Gold Certification from the U.S. Green Building Council and its Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design rating system. Campus construction consisted of 24% recycled materials and materials that were manufactured within 500 miles of the campus. In addition, paint, adhesives and sealants in the building generate little to no chemical emissions. Groundwater that is drawn from 300-foot depths consistently stays at a temperature of 68 degrees, helping cool the building in the summer and heat it in the winter. Natural daylight provides 75% of the lighting for campus buildings during daytime hours.

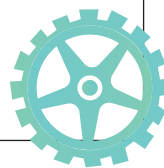


## Head of the Class

### *Top 15 High Schools in N.M. include:*

- THE ASK ACADEMY/ RIO RANCHO
- RIO RANCHO HIGH SCHOOL
- V. SUE CLEVELAND HIGH SCHOOL/ RIO RANCHO
- RIO RANCHO CYBER ACADEMY

*Source: U.S. News & World Report*



## Ready for Workers

“Whenever an industry or business here in New Mexico is growing and needs more skilled workers, or whenever a large business is considering a relocation to New Mexico that would require workforce support, CNM is relied upon heavily to ramp up current programs or create new ones to deliver the workforce needed,” says Samantha Sengel, vice president of advancement and enrollment strategy at the college.

College officials meet regularly with business and industry leaders to stay informed and ensure CNM is constantly adjusting its curriculum and adding new programs, when necessary, to provide students with clear pathways to high-demand jobs.

“All of our programs have advisory committees that consist of local business and industry representatives. They help us ensure that our programs are teaching students the skills they need to be successful in the workplace,” Sengel says. “If a program has become outdated and there are not sufficient jobs available in the area, we regularly eliminate programs. And on the flip side, if there’s a new demand for specific skills in the economy, we will quickly create new programs to meet the need.”

Central New Mexico Community College helps meet the workforce training needs of the region.



Virtual Building design rendering

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in Sandoval County and the City of Rio Rancho



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SCAN ME FOR MORE



# Prime Spot

Superior infrastructure, shovel-ready sites provide a location advantage



By Kevin Litwin

**The road ahead looks clear for moving products and people in Sandoval County, where an ideal location in the heart of the Southwest and strong infrastructure give companies direct access to major western markets as well as Texas and Mexico.**

Interstate 25 runs north and south from near the Mexico border directly through Sandoval County to Colorado and Wyoming, while the four-lane U.S. Route 550 goes east and west throughout the surrounding desert lands. Sandoval County also offers easy access to Interstate 40, a major east-west route.

Sandoval County residents are only an hour's drive to New Mexico's capital city of Santa Fe. The state's largest city, Albuquerque, is 15 minutes from Rio Rancho, offering proximity to Albuquerque International Sunport (pictured above) and its eight commercial carriers, with daily flights to destinations, including

Chicago, Dallas, Denver, Houston, Las Vegas, Los Angeles, Phoenix, Seattle and Washington, D.C.

In addition, Sandoval County is within close proximity to Double Eagle II Airport, a general aviation facility that handles about 120,000 annual operations. Those operations include charter, private and

corporate flights as well as training, military and air ambulance rescues. Major Sandoval County employers that use that airport include Intel, Ideum and Hewlett-Packard.

## Cleared to Land

For companies that ship by rail, Class I carrier Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) serves the region and offers service to 28 states and two Canadian provinces. BNSF also operates a multimodal rail yard in Belen about



45 miles south of Sandoval County.

The county's solid infrastructure has helped attract more business investment, especially in targeted clusters, such as life sciences, professional services and support, and advanced technology and manufacturing.

The Sandoval Economic Alliance (SEA), the chief economic development organization for the county, offers the VeriReady program, which spotlights available, shovel-ready industrial parks and 5+-acre sites where companies can immediately construct buildings.

The VeriReady program alerts site location specialists around

the nation that Sandoval County is ready to welcome potential tenant companies right now.

"VeriReady streamlines the process for a business to move into Sandoval County, identifying both publicly and privately owned sites throughout Rio Rancho and Sandoval County that are suitable for development," says Bridget Condon, SEA's director of business development. "We at SEA can help brokers, site selectors, developers and companies expedite their search for viable property options, allowing these particular area sites to stand out against the competition."

## On Track

Residents of Rio Rancho, Bernalillo and other communities in southeastern Sandoval County can ride a commuter train to and from work aboard the New Mexico Rail Runner Express. The station is at the north end of Bernalillo. Trains travel between Santa Fe and Belen, with stops that include downtown Albuquerque. For Sandoval County residents who want to travel to farther U.S. destinations, Amtrak offers daily service on its Southwest Chief route out of the Alvarado Transportation Center in downtown Albuquerque.

## Big Data

Condon adds that the SEA does all the heavy lifting for companies interested in moving to Sandoval County. Besides finding suitable locations, that also includes supplying workforce data as well as informing businesses about available local and state incentives.

"Sandoval County recently collaborated with the SEA and other key community partners to commission Austin, Texas-based

Avalanche Consulting to assist in developing an economic development action strategy for us. The purpose of this plan is to understand what other key steps Sandoval County must take to remain competitive in economic development, thereby providing the best overall environment possible for companies," Condon says. "In fact, in 2019 a website launched – **futuresandoval.com** – to provide companies with much information on our region."

# PUTTING YOU FIRST

A photograph of a male doctor with a beard and glasses, wearing a brown polo shirt and a stethoscope, smiling as he examines a young child. The child is wearing a blue denim jacket over a yellow shirt. They are in a clinical setting with medical equipment and shelves in the background.

The University of New Mexico Sandoval Regional Medical Center serves the healthcare needs of Sandoval County and the surrounding area, with over 520 healthcare professionals and 17 specialties. We are a full-service hospital, emergency room and outpatient center.

We provide primary care, pediatric services, total joint repair, orthopaedics, cardiology, urology, vascular services, and more. We are currently expanding trauma care services to become a Level III trauma center, along with enhanced behavioral health support in an effort to continuously improve healthcare for this community. We put you and your health first.



# STRONG Medicine

High-quality health providers blanket Sandoval County with care, compassion

By Julie Young

**Thanks to the presence of two major hospitals, proximity to the main University of New Mexico campus and cutting-edge technology companies, Sandoval County has developed a growing life sciences and health care sector.**

Since 2008, Sandoval County health care providers have invested more than \$600 million into hospitals, health clinics and institutions of higher learning so they can not only attract and retain the workforce of tomorrow, but also offer high-quality care for the patients of today.

## Innovative Facilities

Since it opened in 2011 as Rio Rancho's first hospital, Presbyterian Rust Medical Center

has focused on providing quality care in a setting designed to promote healing. More than a year of research, planning and visiting hospitals around the country helped shape the innovative design of the facility, which was recognized by Healthgrades® in 2019 as one of America's 250 Best Hospitals and one of America's 100 Best Hospitals for stroke, critical and pulmonary care.

"We have incredible care teams that work hard every day to care for our patients, and we are honored to receive these recognitions of their dedication," says Angela Ward, the hospital's chief executive and a registered nurse. "At Presbyterian Rust Medical Center, we focus on providing quality care across our programs and



are incredibly proud of the work our care teams do in these and other areas."

In 2017, Presbyterian Rust opened the Ted and Margaret Jorgensen Cancer Center so patients would not have to travel for care during what can be an exceptionally difficult time. The comprehensive cancer center offers medical oncology, infusion services and radiation therapy by MD Anderson-trained radiation oncology specialists all on one campus. Care services support not only

patients but caregivers and survivors, and include support groups, nutrition education and advance care planning.

"Across our system, we exist to improve the health of the patients, members and communities we serve," Ward says.

## Best of Both Worlds

Located in the Rio Rancho City Center near the University of New Mexico (UNM) Health Sciences campus, the UNM Sandoval Regional Medical Center (SRMC)



The University of New Mexico Sandoval Regional Medical Center provides residents of the region with access to high-quality care.

is a 60-bed facility that combines the personalized service of a community hospital with the knowledge and resources of a major academic institution.

Opened in 2012, the SRMC offers a state-of-the-art radiology and women's imaging department, primary and secondary care clinics, physical and occupational therapy services, an emergency department, surgical

suites and a professional arts building with over 40,000 square feet of space.

"What sets the SRMC apart is our unique open medical staff model, which allows patients to be served by the UNM faculty physicians as well as independent doctors who are based in the community," says SRMC President and CEO Jamie Silva-Steele. "We are part of the UNM Health system, but we are a separate

corporate entity, giving our patients the best of both worlds."

To meet the future needs of patients, the UNM Health Sciences Rio Rancho campus offers a number of health-related programs, including a 20-month nursing program, in which a cohort of eight students study and train over the course of five terms, performing some of their clinical work at the SRMC facility. As the program progresses, the school will add additional

cohorts with hopes that it will increase enrollment to 60 over time.

"We have a diverse patient population here in Rio Rancho, and we hope to attract a diverse student population that will improve our quality of care and continue our tradition of excellence," Silva-Steele says. "We feel that the health care sector in Sandoval County will continue to grow, and we want to have the staff and services in place to meet those future needs."

**IN 2019 PRESBYTERIAN RUST MEDICAL CENTER WAS RANKED AS ONE OF AMERICA'S 250 BEST HOSPITALS AND ONE OF AMERICA'S 100 BEST HOSPITALS FOR STROKE, CRITICAL AND PULMONARY CARE.**

*Source: Healthgrades®*



TOP PHOTOS: CITY OF ALBUQUERQUE/MARBLE STREET STUDIO; BOTTOM PHOTO: PRESBYTERIAN HEALTHCARE

# ECONOMIC PROFILE

## DEMOGRAPHICS



### AGE

■ < 18	24.3%	■ 45-54	13.2%
■ 18-24	8%	■ 55-64	13.7%
■ 25-34	12.1%	■ 65+	15.7%
■ 35-44	12.9%		

### POPULATION (2018):

**145,179**

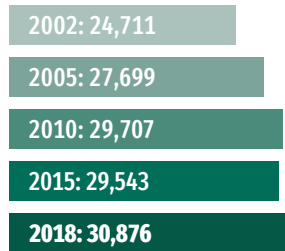
### TOTAL HOUSING UNITS:

**55,163**

### POPULATION CENTERS:

Rio Rancho: 86,158  
 Bernalillo: 9,638  
 Corrales: 8,549  
 Placitas: 4,977

## LABOR FORCE



## INCOME

(Sandoval County/New Mexico)

Median Household Income	<span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$60,345</span> / <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$46,718</span>
Per Capita Income	<span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$27,406</span> / <span style="font-size: 2em; font-weight: bold;">\$25,257</span>

## MAJOR EMPLOYMENT SECTORS (by percentage of total non-farm jobs)

Health Care, Social Assistance and Educational Services	15.9%
Accommodations & Food Service	15.5%
Administrative & Support and Waste Management and Remediation	15.3%
Retail Trade	13.8%
Manufacturing	9.3%
Construction	6.2%
Professional & Scientific Services	4.7%
Other Services	4.4%
Arts, Entertainment & Recreation	4.4%
Finance & Insurance	3.6%
Information	2.3%
Transportation & Warehousing	1.6%
Wholesale Trade	1.3%
Real Estate, Rental & Leasing	1.1%
All Others	0.6%

Sources: U.S. Census Bureau American Community Survey, New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions

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