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**TWO SANDOVAL COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE DEPUTY CADETS
GRADUATE TOP OF CLASS AS VALEDICTORIAN AND SALUTATORIAN
FROM CLASS 9 CNM LAW ENFORCEMENT ACADEMY**

Kiara Portillo is Valedictorian and Amber McLean is Salutatorian

Bernalillo, N.M., May 19—Sandoval County Sheriff's Office announced today that two of its deputy cadets earned top ranking in their class at the *CNM Law Enforcement Academy* (CNM LEA). Class 9 graduated May 18, 2023—Deputy cadets *Kiara Portillo* as Valedictorian and *Amber McLean* as Salutatorian. Their titles are now ***Certified Sheriff's Deputies***. Sixteen cadets went through the Class 9 Academy. In this Academy, the cadets complete more than 700 hours of classroom and practical training in several areas. The CNMLEA uses the New Mexico Law Enforcement Academy Basic Police Officer Training (BPOT) curriculum.

In making the announcement, ***Sandoval County Sheriff Jesse James Casaus*** expressed his appreciation for their commitment and their achievement. "These two new Certified Sheriff's Deputies exemplify what is needed in today's law enforcement officer. Their education, on-the-job training, and how they conduct themselves in the field demonstrate integrity, professionalism, and dedication to protecting the public. We are proud to serve with these individuals."

Gilbert Armendariz, Warden, Sandoval County Detention Center, also applauded the academic success and career advancement of Deputies Kiara Portillo and Amber McLean. "Both of these public safety officers began their careers at our Detention Center, and they were very successful here," Warden Armendariz shared. "And so, when the opportunities at the Sheriff's Office presented, they were encouraged to apply and make the move. Sandoval County is committed to career development within the County, and these two officers are proof of that."

For more information on career opportunities in Public Safety and more at Sandoval County, visit <https://www.sandovalcountynm.gov/departments/human-resources/>.

Sandoval County, the fastest-growing county in New Mexico, encompasses 3,714 square miles of diverse geography and has a population of approximately 151,000 people. It includes the incorporated municipalities of Bernalillo, Cuba, Corrales, Jemez Springs, Rio Rancho, San Ysidro, and the Town of Cochiti Lake as well as numerous unincorporated communities, and all or portions of 12 Indian Pueblos and Tribal Nations. For more information, visit www.sandovalcountynm.gov.

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Kiara Portillo, Valedictorian, Class 9, CNM Law Enforcement Academy (CNM LEA), May 18, 2023. Deputy Portillo began her public safety career at Sandoval County as a Detention Officer (06/21) and then moved to the Sheriff's Office (10/22) and immediately transitioned to a Deputy Cadet in preparation for the CNM LEA.



Amber McLean, Salutatorian, Class 9, CNM Law Enforcement Academy (CNM LEA), May 18, 2023. Deputy McLean began her public safety career at Sandoval County Detention Center (10/19) and then moved to the Sheriff's Office, Animal Control Department (01/21). In 2022, she transitioned to a Deputy Cadet in preparation for the CNM LEA.
