

STATE OF NEW MEXICO

# County of Luna

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## Media Release

Years of hard work, education and training have paid off for Teresa Ortberg, Luna County's first certified prevention specialist.

Ortberg has worked for the Luna County DWI Prevention Program for three years with various responsibilities, like running the Teen Court program, educating inmates at the detention center, and doing community outreach to prevent underage drinking and driving while intoxicated. In a May Luna County Board of Commissioners meeting, she was honored for taking the next step in her career and earning the prevention specialist certification from the New Mexico Credentialing Board for Behavioral Health Professionals.

"It was a lot of hard work, but I'm happy I was able to receive this certification to better serve our community," she said. "This is a tough field to work in sometimes, and it helps to have as many tools as possible to help get the job done."

To become credentialed, one must have over 2,000 hours of prevention experience, 120 hours of specific education credits, 120 hours of supervision experience in prevention, and pass a rigorous test. Prevention specialists must also continue their education with 40 hours of training every two years. The certification follows the standards set by the International Certification and Reciprocity Consortium/Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse. The standards are recognized by 73 local, state and federal agencies across the nation.

"We are all extremely proud of Teresa's accomplishment, and we thank her for dedicating so much time to this thorough process," Glory Juarez, interim county manager, said. "Even without the certification, Teresa helped advance her program's efforts. Now I'm excited to see how much more of a positive impact she can make on our community."

Ortberg's honest, no-nonsense style and work ethic have helped her expand the reach of the DWI Program across the community to touch all ages, from elementary students to adults. You will find her and her colleagues at most community events, oftentimes with interactive exhibits that highlight the dangers of alcohol. She was also instrumental in implementing the second "Every 15 Minutes" scenario at Deming High School in April, where students got to witness a mock DWI accident and the reaction of first responders.

"Teresa is wonderful to work with," Edith Vazquez, coordinator of the DWI Program and Ortberg's supervisor, said. "Having staff like her makes my job easier, and it makes the program much more effective. I like to think her efforts have helped save lives."

For more information about the certification, visit [www.nmcbbhp.org](http://www.nmcbbhp.org).

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**PHOTO CAPTION**

At left, Glory Juarez, interim Luna County manager, is shown congratulating Teresa Ortberg on her Certified Prevention Specialist achievement.