

AS SEEN IN
albuquerque
THE MAGAZINE

PARTNER CONTENT

NM RAPIDS SOCCER CLUB

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nmrapids.org
#nmrapids

UNM ALUMS WITH NM RAPIDS BOARD AND STAFF

Back Row, left to right:

Matt Erickson (Board member) - B.A. 2000
Justin Sells (Technical Director) - B.S. 2004
Jason Moran (Executive Director)- B.S. 1994, M.S. 1997
Eric Dooley (Futsal Center Director, Bookkeeper) - B.B.A 1998

Front Row, left to right:

Sarah Pirio Richardson (Board member) - MD 2000
Melissa Valdez (Board member) - B.S. 2003, MD 2010

Not Pictured:

Steve Kramer (Board member) B.A. 1998
Al Salinas (Board member) - B.S. 2001
Aaron Forrester (Board member) - B.S. 1997



As a non-profit organization, NM Rapids’ mission is to create and maintain an environment for youth soccer players from diverse backgrounds, encouraging and inspiring them to reach their full potential both on and off the field. This is achieved through five core values: Excellence, Continuous Learning, Passion, Diversity, and Development. These values are not just words but guiding principles that shape the club’s programs and culture.

NM Rapids provides opportunities for a wide range of skill levels, from beginners to those with professional aspirations. “Our goal is to meet each player where they are and help them grow, whether they’re just starting or aiming for a professional career,” explains Jason Moran, Executive Director.

Operating in Albuquerque for the past three decades, NM Rapids has had to stay attuned to the evolving needs of the local community. The club has experienced tremendous growth, bolstered by local mergers—most notably the recent merger of NM Rush SC and Rio Rapids SC including over 1200 players to form NM Rapids SC.

“The merger between NM Rush and Rio Rapids will drastically improve the landscape of youth soccer in New Mexico in terms of player and coach development and the ability to showcase our players at a national level,” says NM Rapids Technical Director Justin Sells. This strategic consolidation has not only expanded the club’s resources and talent pool but also strengthened its ability to offer top-tier training and competitive opportunities.

Despite its vast reach throughout the Albuquerque soccer community, NM Rapids remains dedicated to maintaining a unified message and philosophy across all its teams, coaches, and staff. The club’s emphasis on unity ensures that every player, regardless of their team or level, benefits from a consistent and supportive developmental approach.

As NM Rapids looks to the future, it remains committed to its mission of nurturing the next generation of soccer talent in New Mexico. With its strong foundation of core values and a passionate community, the club is poised to continue its legacy of excellence for many more years to come.