



CITY OF SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

PLANNING AND LAND USE DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

DATE: August 21, 2026

TO: Governing Body

VIA: Heather L. Lamboy, AICP Planning and Land Use Director 
Maggie Moore, Assistant Planning and Land Use Director

FROM: Daniel A. Esquibel, Planning and Land Use, Current Planning, Planner Manager 

ITEM:

Planning Commission reappointment of Dr. Peter Smith, representing District 2

BACKGROUND AND SUMMARY:

In accordance with SFCC §14-2.2.D.4.III "Appointment and Term", Mayor Michael J. Garcia recommends the reappointment of Dr. Peter Smith to the Planning Commission, representing District 2, to serve a full two-year term beginning August 26, 2026 and expiring August 26, 2028. Consistent with Chapter 14, Dr. Peter Smith shall continue to serve after the expiration date until a successor has been appointed and qualified.

A summary of Smith's professional experience and community qualifications is included in the attached resume.

ATTACHMENTS:

Smith Letter of Interest
Smith Resume

4/10/26

To Whom It May Concern:

I am currently a member of the Planning Commission and I wish to apply for reappointment to the Commission in June, 2026 when my seat becomes vacant.

Significant issues are in the process of being developed as the General Plan and the Code are being updated after years of inaction. As a result of this work, the Commission and the Governing Body will be facing significant decisions in the next 2-4 years regarding the future of both residential and commercial development in Santa Fe. These issues, along with the regular business of the Commission and the need to collaborate more transparently and effectively with the Santa Fe County Commission, inspire me to seek reappointment.

There are multiple critical issues facing the city when it comes to development. They include: affordable housing, neighborhood enhancement, better control over STRs, traffic control and bike safety, protecting the historic district and better regulation of commercial development throughout the city. The MidTown Campus project is critically important and giving more control to its oversight authority is critical as well. Finally, streamlining the development and approval process both technologically and procedurally is critically important as well.

My background in local and state politics as well as service over the years on many boards - public, private, non-profit and for-profit - give me strong credentials to be an effective member of the Commission during these important times. Working collaboratively with each other as well as with the staff and across the other sectors of city government is critical to improving our effectiveness and efficiency. For more information, please see my attached resume.

And I have secured the endorsement of Council Member Barrett and former city official Atty. Frank Katz should you want to check with them for their recommendation. And, if you would like additional recommendations, please let me know and I'll provide them.

Thank you for your consideration and, if you would like to interview me as part of this process, let me know.

Sincerely,

Peter Smith

2022 Foothills Rd

Santa Fe, 87505

954.218-0184

Dr. Peter Smith
2022 Foothills Rd.
Santa Fe, New Mexico
87505

Contact Information:
954.218.0184 (cell)
peter.smith3345@gmail.com

WORK HISTORY

April 26, 2020 – 12/31/22
Senior Advisor – Academic Innovations/Strategy
Orkand Chair
University of Maryland Global Campus
Advising President on Innovations and Strategic direction for UMGC.

September 2019 – April 24, 2020
Senior VP, Academic Affairs (interim)
University of Maryland Global Campus
Responsible for overseeing the complete re-alignment of the Academic Affairs unit as well as all Academic Operations and practices affecting UMGC's 90,000 students and 6000 faculty and staff working on 4 continents.

April 4, 2016 – September, 2019
Professor of Innovative Practices in Higher Education
The Orkand Endowed Chair
University of Maryland Global Campus
At UMUC, I advised the President and the Chief Academic Officer on strategies, programs and practices needed to position the University in the forefront of change as the disruption of higher education continues. To date, this has included the writing and publication of my 4th book, Free-Range Learning in the Digital Age: The Emerging Revolution in College: Career, and Education. (SelectBooks, NYC, 2018). I am also leading a development project called "Qualified!". Qualified! will employ technologically-enhanced services and supports to a) assess prior and non-college learning comprehensively and b) link the learning that is assessed to academic as well as employment outcomes.

January 1, 2014 – April 3, 2016

Founding President, Open College at Kaplan University (OC@KU); now the Open College at Purdue Global.

As the founding president, I was tasked with the conception, development, and establishment of an entirely new type of college. OC@KU uses free educational course material available on the web to support learners as they complete Individualized Learning Plans (ILPs) towards a competency-based degree in Professional Studies. The college also offers assessment of prior learning, including experiential learning, to maximize the recognition of what the entering student already knows and is able to do. This also reduces time and cost to earn the degree.

June, 2007 – January 1, 2014

Senior Vice President, Academic Strategies and Development, Kaplan Higher Education, Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

I was part of the team that ultimately earned Kaplan University a 10-year accreditation from North Central Schools and Colleges.

As the senior academic officer at Kaplan Higher Education, I was the senior in-house voice for the academic programs. Additionally, I was responsible for the development and implementation of two initiatives aimed at improving academic quality at Kaplan Higher Education. The first is an academic quality assurance initiative which has developed a set of policies which, taken collectively, define the “gold standard” for online and blended education. They provide the basis for “best practice” identification and implementation and a QA process which employs metrics to move Kaplan Higher Education toward those standards through a continuous improvement process. The second is an academic strategic initiative, assessing prior learning, which has repositioned Kaplan Higher Education for emerging adult learner markets. I reported directly to the CEO of Kaplan Higher Education. Additionally, I spent time outside of Kaplan speaking and participating in policy events in an attempt to “change the conversation” about higher education in the 21st century.

Fall, 2004 – June, 2007

Assistant Director General for Education, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization, Paris, France

As the ADG/Ed, I was responsible for the supervision and management of more than 700 full and part time staff located in over 30 countries around the world. I reported directly to the Director General of UNESCO and was actively involved in leading a successful, sector-wide management reform requested by UNESCO’s General Conference. The reform package was endorsed by the Director General and approved by the Executive Board and the General conference. Headquartered in Paris, UNESCO’s Education Sector serves the Ministries of Education in the world’s less developed and emerging nations as their trusted intellectual advisor and advocate in developing and supporting national educational plans and strategies. UNESCO’s span of responsibility in education ranges from early childhood education to tertiary education and lifelong learning. The budget is over \$1 billion per biennium.

January, 1995- June, 2005

Founding President, California State University Monterey Bay

Established by Executive Order of the Governor in 1994, California State University, Monterey Bay (CSUMB) is part of the California State University system. CSUMB first opened its doors to students in September, 1995. As the university's founding president, I served for more than ten years and was responsible for all aspects of leadership and development of the institution, working closely and successfully with the founding faculty. The university is widely recognized for several core characteristics including an outcomes-based curriculum, a strong science and technology program, the first wireless computer network on a public university campus in America, a focus on first generation college students, and a commitment to service learning as a core component of the curriculum. During the years of my presidency, the university went through all stages of accreditation to a status of full accreditation for a period of ten years. The university also raised almost \$100 million from external sources for the development of program and facilities, exclusive of faculty research grants. Upon my resignation, I was awarded the rank of President Emeritus and Professor of Public policy by the CSU Board of Trustees.

July, 1991-December, 1994

Dean, Graduate School of Education and Human Development, George Washington University, Washington, DC

Hired by President Trachtenberg in the summer of 1991, my assignment was to reform and re-invigorate a graduate school of education that he feared was sliding towards mediocrity. During my three and a half years as Dean, the GSEHD increased its student body significantly, earned a new facility, and added highly talented and diverse core faculty including my successor Dean, Dr. Mary Hatwood Futrell. As a result of this base-building work and the increased financial support it earned from the president, the GSEHD was recognized as one of the leading professional schools in the mid-Atlantic region and one of the top 50 in America shortly after my resignation.

January-June, 1991

Senior Fellow, American Council on Education, Washington, D.C.

I researched and wrote a paper entitled, *Radical Reconstruction of Domestic Human Resource Policy* which analyzed demographic information and economic changes and described better human resource strategies for education specifically and domestic policy more generally.

January-July, 1991

Executive Director, National Commission on Responsibilities for Financing Post-Secondary Education, Washington, D.C.

I served as the founding director of this Congressionally-mandated panel charged with proposing significant restructuring of the nation's financial aid system. The Commission's report, *Making College Affordable Again*, was published and considered in the 103rd Congress.

1989-1990

Member, United States House of Representatives, Congressman-at-Large, Washington, D.C.

Elected in the State of Vermont, in the Congress I served as a member of the Education and Labor and Government Operations Committees. I also served on the post-secondary education sub-committee.

1986-1988

Vice President for Development, Norwich University, Northfield, Vermont

As the University's first Vice President for Development, my responsibility was the design and implementation of Norwich 2000, the first comprehensive Capital Fund Drive undertaken by the University. The goal announced at the kick-off was \$12,000,000. The drive was ultimately concluded, having raised over \$18,000,000.

1982-1986

Lieutenant Governor, State of Vermont

- Executive Committee, National Conference of the Lieutenant Governors
- Chairman, Lieutenant Governors' Task Force on Education and Economic Growth

1980-1982

Vermont State Senator

- Member, Senate Education Committee

1978-1980

President, Hunger Mountain Associates

I ran a small consulting company, Hunger Mountain Associates, in Montpelier, Vermont. During this period of time, I received the Mina Shaughnessy award from FIPSE and conducted the interviews which ultimately led to the publishing of my first book, Your Hidden Credentials , three years later.

1970-1978

Founder and First President of the Community College of Vermont.

I led the successful effort to design and implement Vermont's statewide Community College. This work included the design of the college's innovative operating, administrative, academic, and assessment systems. In external affairs, I led the successful efforts that allowed the college to join the state system, develop a strong public funding base with the legislature, and gain full accreditation from New England Association of Schools and Colleges. Upon my resignation, I was awarded the rank of President Emeritus.

1975-1976

Director, Office of External Programs, Vermont State Colleges.

I accepted this additional assignment from the Chancellor of the Vermont State College System in 1975. My task was to create the Office of External Programs, including an External Baccalaureate Degree program for non-traditional students and a portfolio assessment program for evaluating students' experiential learning done outside of college.

EDUCATION

Harvard University Graduate School of Education

Cambridge, Massachusetts

- Doctor of Education in Administration Planning and Social Policy, 1984
- Master of Arts in Teaching, 1970

Princeton University

Princeton, New Jersey

- Bachelor of Arts, Magna Cum Laude, 1968

Phillips Academy

Andover, Massachusetts, 1960-1964

Vermont Public Schools

Burlington, Vermont, 1951-1960

NATIONAL and Local BOARDS - Current

Santa Fe City Planning Commission, 2022 – present.

Sterling College Board of Trustees, 2024 – present.

Association of Governing Boards Senior Fellow and Consultant, 2019 – present

Leon & Sylvia Panetta Institute for Public Policy National Board of Directors, Member.
September 2002- present.

Previous

Distance Education Accreditation Commission – May, 2023 – January, 2026.

SARA National Council Member, February, 2017 – 2023. Interstate authorization and regulatory agency for online and multi-state post-secondary education offerings.

National Center for Higher Education Management Systems, October 2012- 2023;
1975-1978 (At age 30, I was the youngest Member of the Board in its history and served to completion of term in 1978.);

Strada Institute for the Future of Work – External Advisory Committee; Spring, 2018 – 2020.

Vermont College of Fine Arts, Montpelier, Vermont, founding board member, 2008-2021.

Pearson Council of Advisors – advisor to the company, 2019 – 2021

Global Open Education Consortium, February, 2017 – 19.

Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education Council on Educational Technology, Executive Committee, 2013-2017; Chair 2015 - 2016.

The President’s Forum, Executive Committee, 2010- 2015; member emeritus – present.

National Survey of Student Engagement, National Advisory Council, 2013-2016.

National Student Clearinghouse, Advisory Committee, 2013 - 2016

Committee for Economic Development, Washington DC, Board of Trustees. 2008- 2014.

The SpringBoard Project, member, board of Advisors, sponsored by the Business Roundtable. Report issued December 9, 2009.

The National Steinbeck Center, Vice Chair for Long Range Planning and member of Board of Trustees. 2000- 2005.

American Council on Education, Commission on Government and Public Affairs, Member. June 2000-03.

California Council on Science and Technology, Member, 1997-1999.

Wingspread Group On Higher Education, Member. Convened by the Johnson Foundation, with support from the Hewlett Foundation and the Lilly Endowment, this working group was charged with responding to the question, *What Does Society Need From Higher Education?* Chaired by Hon. William Brock, the group issued a report during the Fall, 1993.

National Research Council, Commission on Behavior and Social Sciences and Education; Board on Testing and Assessment, Member, 1994.

Carnegie Forum on Education and Economic Development, 1985-1988. Invited by President of Carnegie Corporation, Dr. David Hamburg, to advise both on its forum, a 10-year initiative undertaken by the Carnegie Corporation, as well as on its education, science, and technology grant program. This group birthed two important educational reform groups, both still operating today: The National Board of Professional Teaching Standards and The National Center for Education and the Economy.

Board of Directors, Fund for Improvement of Post-Secondary Education, Chairman. 1984-1986. Invited by Secretary of Education, Dr. Terrell Bell. After one year's service, asked in fall of 1984, by Dr. Bell, to become Chairman of the Board. The Board advised the Secretary of Education and staff of FIPSE with regard to grant awards and overall policy regarding innovation and post-secondary education.

Education Commission of the States, 1980-1986. State Commissioner to ECS, Member of Executive Committee 1984 and 1985. Chairman, Program Committee, 1985. Chairman, Policy Committee, 1986. During this period of time in ECS history, I worked closely with Governors James Hunt, Thomas Kean, and Charles Robb to "restart" ECS under Dr. Frank Newman and join the national response to *A Nation At Risk*. ECS is the major national forum for discussion of educational policy issues by state political and educational leaders. Formed in 1966 by Dr. James Bryant Conant and Governor Terry Stanford (D-North Carolina). ECS is governed by an interstate compact. All states and territories are members.

Council for the Advancement of Experiential Learning (CAEL), 1974-1986. Founding member and charter officer. As Secretary of CAEL Board, served as officer during formative years of organization. CAEL has become the leading authority on experiential learning in U.S. During its formative years, CAEL conducted research on good practice in assessment of experiential learning and published several seminal works on principles of good practice in assessment of experiential learning. The group is credited, more than any other, with bringing experiential learning and its assessment to the forefront as a legitimate educational enterprise.

Signature: 

Email: hllamboy@santafenm.gov