

## Meet the Board

*Rick Griffiths (NM), Western Region Director*

Greetings all,

If we haven't met, I'm Rick. I have the privilege of serving as the Western Region Director. I'm very grateful for this opportunity to serve the members of NEAFCS, learn about the many facets of our Association and try to share that information with you.

I grew up just outside of Salt Lake City, Utah and received my bachelor's degree in Family and Consumer Science Education from Southern Utah University and my Master of Education from Westminster College of Salt Lake City. Before joining Extension, I was a high school Family and Consumer Science teacher and worked as a corporate trainer in the health insurance industry for a short time.

In 2014, I was hired by New Mexico State University as the San Juan County Family and Consumer Science Agent. On my first day at NMSU, the County Director who was also an FCS Agent handed me a NEAFCS Application with the instruction sheet she had printed off. She told me that if I wanted to be successful as an agent, I needed to join the Association and become involved as soon as possible. She said that in a small state we didn't have many professional development opportunities and attending Annual Sessions is a good way to fill the gap. She also told me that the Promotion and Tenure Committee highly values service to the Association. As she was the Chair of the Promotion and Tenure Committee, I took that as good advice. I have served as the New Mexico Affiliate Vice President of Awards and Recognition, Affiliate President and I'm currently serving as the Affiliate Immediate Past President. I have also attended six Annual Sessions since joining Extension.

That I think is our Association's superpower, our ability to build each other up and to learn and grow from one another. Being involved in the Association has given me the opportunity to meet amazing people who go out of their way to support everyone around them. I am ever thankful for the many individuals that have guided me along my path and that continue to point me in the right direction. If there is any way I can help you along your journey, please feel free to reach out to me.

