



STEPHANIE LOFTUS

Adults, from left to right: Health Care Hero Brandon Ko and team, Mike Pohl, Samantha Pohl RN, David Murchio RN, Candace Murchio RN, Nina Washington MD and Lena Jim

HEALTH CARE HEROES

LOCAL CHAMPIONS TACKLE CHALLENGES

A nurse practitioner with deep rural roots, a pediatric specialist inspired by personal loss and a milk bank founder breaking new ground are being recognized for their contributions to New Mexico’s health care landscape. ¶ Albuquerque Business First is proud to announce the 2025 Health Care Heroes honorees, who are working to keep New Mexicans healthy. ¶ New Mexico’s health care landscape faces unique challenges, including a large rural population, significant areas designated as medically underserved and a high demand for health care workers. ¶ The honorees selected as this year’s Health Care Heroes represent the collective efforts of a diverse group of individuals and programs dedicated to strengthening the state’s health care system and ensuring that all New Mexicans have access to quality, culturally sensitive care. ¶ The 2025 Health Care Heroes are:

Kim Archuleta
 MSN, APRN, FNP-BC,
 Nurse Practitioner, Presbyterian
 Medical Group – Rust OB/GYN

Brandon Ko
 Pediatric Rheumatology
 Nurse Practitioner, UNM Pediatric
 Rheumatology

Kael A. Marshall
 Executive Director,
 Southwest Mothers’ Milk Bank

Q&As have been edited for brevity and clarity.

Honorees are chosen through an independent editorial review, with selections based entirely on their merits, achievements and contributions to their organizations and local community. Commercial interests with the *Albuquerque Business First* are not considered. Review panels may be comprised entirely of *Albuquerque Business First* leadership, or in combination with outside judges determined by the news department. The *Albuquerque Business First* editorial leadership has final say and approval for all awards and honorees.