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New Mexico State Fair Crowns 2023 State Fair Queen

Albuquerque, NM – The newly crowned New Mexico State Fair Queen for 2023 is a cosmetology student at Central New Mexico Community College (CNM).

Meet Tonantzin Candelaria, a resident of Bernalillo County, was crowned on Saturday, September 17, during the rodeo in Tingley Coliseum. Tonantzin is the 20-year-old daughter of Kyola and Joaquin Candelaria and calls Albuquerque home. She has reigned as Bernalillo County Rodeo Queen since 2020.

“I so excited for this opportunity to represent the New Mexico State Fair all across the state and I’m looking forward to making new friends and meeting new people,” said Tonantzin about her new role. She was a long-time participant in Albuquerque’s First Impressions Rodeo Club. First Impressions Rodeo Club is a non-profit organization committed and dedicated to promoting New Mexico youth in the sport of rodeo.

The rules for the Queen Contest describe the title of New Mexico State Fair Queen as “one of honor and prestige like no other in New Mexico and the experience gained during the queen’s reign will enrich her life in countless ways.” This title represents not only the Western way of life, but also the quality of leadership among young women in New Mexico as the leaders of tomorrow. According to Queens contest guidelines, the objective of the New Mexico State Fair Queen Contest is to determine an official representative of the Fair who will serve as an ambassador to the general public, exhibiting exceptional sportsmanship. She should be able to speak with authority, and with knowledge about the New Mexico State Fair, the State of New Mexico and the sport of Rodeo. She should also be familiar with the state’s agriculture industry, its Western heritage, and diverse cultures which is what the New Mexico State Fair is about.

A panel of three judged the New Mexico State Fair Queen Contest – with their scores added together to give one averaged score for each contestant. The contestant with the highest averaged score is selected as the New Mexico State Fair Queen. The contestants were judged on: Horsemanship, Personality, and Personal Interviews.

The first runner up is Angel Trujillo from Socorro, NM.

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