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New Mexico State Associate Dean Paul Gutierrez Lends His Expertise as a Member of the IALC Board

June 22, 2005 - Las Cruces, NM and Tucson, AZ - Dr. Paul Gutierrez, Associate Dean and Associate Director of the New Mexico Cooperative Extension Service, is lending his expertise to the International Arid Lands Consortium as the New Mexico State University representative on the Board of Directors. "Dr. Gutierrez is an invaluable addition to the IALC board. By lending his expertise as a member of the board Dr. Gutierrez will bolster the IALC knowledge base in the critical areas of ranching and farming. We welcome Dr. Gutierrez and we look forward to his input," said Dr. Colin Kaltenbach, President of the IALC Board.

In his capacity as Director of New Mexico State University's Cooperative Extension Service, Dr. Gutierrez is responsible for running youth, agriculture and family education programs affiliated with every county government and several tribes in the state of New Mexico. The programs serve 50,000 4-H members, 14,000 farms and ranches, and New Mexican households.

Dr. Gutierrez believes that efforts must be focused on the promotion of "sustainable arid land agriculture [that which] must be capable of maintaining its productivity and usefulness to society indefinitely. Such an agriculture must use farming systems that conserve resources, protect the environment, produce efficiently, compete commercially, and enhance the quality of life for farmers and society overall."

Prior to becoming the Director of the NMSU Extension Programs, Dr. Gutierrez directed the Extension Programs at Washington State University in King County, Washington. Dr. Gutierrez earned his agricultural credentials over the 14-year period he spent helping Colorado ranchers and farmers evaluate production, financial and marketing alternatives using integrated resource management techniques as a farm and ranch specialist for Colorado State University.

"The International Arid Lands Institute and Consortium must facilitate the dialogue for development and utilization of arid lands through strong focus on intuitive and basic research and education, and effective dissemination of relevant knowledge and technologies."