

# New Mexico Drug Recognition Expert Program



## New Mexico Drug Evaluation and Classification Program Drug Recognition Expert Training **NEWS RELEASE**

**Date:** January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

**Prepared By:** New Mexico D.R.E. Program

### **SUNLAND PARK POLICE OFFICER RECOGNIZED AS NEW MEXICO'S DRUG RECOGNITION EXPERT OF THE YEAR 2025**

**Los Lunas, N.M. - STATEWIDE – January 21, 2026** – The New Mexico Drug Recognition Expert Program is proud to recognize **Sergeant Armando Duran** of the **Sunland Park Police Department** as the **2025 DRE of the Year**. Since becoming a certified Drug Recognition Expert in May 2021, Sergeant Duran has exemplified the highest standards of leadership, initiative, and dedication to traffic safety and professional excellence that this award celebrates.

Sergeant Duran currently serves as the Southern Region alternate representative on the NMDRE Committee, a role that reflects the respect and confidence he has earned throughout the state. Beyond his enforcement responsibilities, he is widely regarded as a trusted resource of knowledge and mentorship. In 2025, he continued to strengthen partnerships with neighboring agencies, conducting DRE evaluations, providing guidance on complex cases, and leading DWI refresher training and full certification courses for his department as well as others. His responsiveness and willingness to assist fellow agencies exemplify the collaborative spirit of the DRE program.

Sergeant Duran made history as the first Drug Recognition Expert in the Sunland Park Police Department, a milestone that underscores his dedication to the community and to the mission of roadway safety. In 2025, he also demonstrated exceptional leadership by advancing the department's K9 program from the ground up, all while continuing to fulfill his responsibilities as a supervisor and DRE.

As a mentor, Sergeant Duran challenges and inspires younger officers to expand their skills, step beyond their comfort zones, and pursue professional growth. Known statewide as a go-to expert for DWI and DRE related matters, he continually seeks opportunities to strengthen his knowledge and better serve both the law enforcement community and the public.

Sergeant Duran's leadership, integrity, selfless service, dedication, and professionalism clearly set him apart. He will be formally recognized for this achievement at the New Mexico DRE Committee Meeting in Albuquerque on March 23, 2026. In addition, he has been invited to attend the International Association of Chiefs of Police Conference on Impaired Driving and Traffic Safety in Anaheim, California, an opportunity that highlights the national impact of his work in 2025.

The NMDRE Committee proudly recognizes Sergeant Armando Duran not only for his outstanding performance in the field but also for his leadership, initiative, and dedication to making New Mexico's roads safer. We are honored to name him the 2025 Drug Recognition Expert of the Year.



For questions regarding this release, please contact:

Charlie Files  
New Mexico State DRE Coordinator  
cfiles@nmdre.org  
505-980-2803  
[www.integrityshieldnm.com/NMDRE](http://www.integrityshieldnm.com/NMDRE)  
# # #