

Michael A Lujan

Michael Lujan is from Rio Rancho, New Mexico. He founded and continuously served as the Chief Executive Officer of the Santa Fe Junior Wrestling Program for 34 years. This strictly volunteer program involves elementary school youth from Santa Fe and several surrounding areas in wrestling by providing wrestling facilities, coaching and competitive experiences for over 1000 boys and girls annually. Mike has also offered the Lujan Summer Wrestling Camp for youth of all ages for the past 34 years. Over the years as a coach in wrestling, he has produced 28 state champions, over 100 AAU All-Americans, and over ten national champions.

Mike obtained a bachelor's degree in Colorado and began his first teaching job at an elementary school in 1974. Mike's high school coaching career began in 1974, when he became the assistant wrestling coach for Santa Fe High, a position he held until 1980. In 1981, Mike took over the position of head coach and served in that position for 20 years. When he retired from active coaching, Mike became an ISS teacher at Santa Fe High School in 2000, a position he holds today.

In 2001, Mike was the AAU Grand Nationals tournament director. He continued to support AAU activities in his state, serving as the New Mexico District's AAU Wrestling Sports Director from 2003-2007. In 2007, he was elected to a position on the AAU National Wrestling Committee's Executive Board, and still serves in that position.

Mike has received many honors throughout the years for his work with youth and wrestling. These honors included: a listing in America's Who's Who in High School Wrestling-1988; *Scholastic Coach Magazine* Award –1989; USA Weekend Most Caring Coach Award-1997; National Jefferson Award, given by the Pentagon to 7 individuals worldwide – 1997; written entry selected for *Mat Snacks*, a motivational book for wrestlers by Jack Spates-1998; featured in a lead article in *Vista Magazine*, a Spanish language magazine-1999; High School State Coach of the Year – 2001; AAU National Wrestling Committee's Man of the Year– 2001; AAU New Mexico Volunteer of the Year –2001; Albuquerque Sports Hall of Fame Promotion of the Year Award-2002; AAU Presidential Leadership Award-2003; Santa Fe Board of Education Silver ZIA Award-2003; New Mexico Wrestling Hall of Fame Inductee-2006; and the Dan Gable American Needs Wrestling Award N.W.C.A. –2007.

Perhaps the honor that will continue for many years happened in 2005 when the Santa Fe High School Wrestling Room was named the Michael Anthony Lujan Wrestling Room. The AAU Wrestling Committee also wishes to honor MICHAEL LUJAN for his many years of commitment and service to a sport he loves by inducting him into our Hall of Fame as a member of the Class of 2007.