



August 2020

**FEATURED MEMBER**



**Tyler Garrett**  
**ANYTIME FITNESS**  
*Get to a healthier place.*

Tyler Garrett was born and raised in a small town, Prairie View, TX, where he also went to school for his first degree from Prairie View A&M University.

When Sandia National Labs (SNL) offered Tyler a job along with payment of his master’s degree studies, Tyler Garrett decided “good deal!” He received his master’s from Georgia Tech, December 2012 with a background in civil engineering yet, served as a system engineer for mechanical/electrical systems with SNL for the past 10 years. He currently serves as a senior engineer in the tester surety department.

Prior to the pandemic, Tyler was also an avid adult kickball and club volleyball player. Both Tyler and his wife have day jobs while running the business. His wife, formally a nurse, now works in Utilization Review at Presbyterian. They have a teenage daughter and a one-year-old son who keeps them on their toes. Supportive parents and in-laws are also part of the business. Tyler’s father is CFO for their LLC and provides guidance. His mother covers other activities while both parents reside in Texas. Tyler’s mother-in-law is assistant manager while taking care of all the custodial and handyman services along with his father-in-law. “It’s all about family, and we couldn’t do this without them”.

While at SNL, Tyler took advantage of a program to receive his MBA and expand his business knowledge that has benefited him to date. Loaded with enough information to start a business, saving money for general purposes to buy into a franchise, he began researching gym franchising in August 2017. Tyler stated, “I might as well take the plunge... with the hope of providing a better lifestyle for my family where I can be home more instead of in the office”.

What motivated his passion for a fitness center was childhood ridicule, for excessive upper chest tissue growth. Tyler knew that working out would help, but he wasn’t consistent. With a life transformation in January 2017, he found a passion for health, fitness, and changing the aesthetics of his body; and wanted to share. Thus, he signed a franchise agreement in March 2018 along with starting his LLC and opened Anytime Fitness Los Lunas.

Tyler stated, “the biggest challenge we face is acquiring members who are committed to a healthier, sustainable lifestyle. Everyone wants to do it but not everyone is willing to stick to it; we balance that challenge with convenience and guidance. We address both of these by offering a 24/7 gym franchise that is part of the largest co-ed gym network in the world with gyms on every continent”. At their particular facility, they

offer premium features in every membership to include health and wellness seminars, gym concierge, live classes, virtual classes, on-site massage therapy, all the equipment you could want, complimentary towel, coffee, infused water, fruit service, and more!

Tyler provides the following advice...” starting a business can be scary, but if you are able to roll with the punches you can endure.” In our first year in business we went through the largest state shutdown as we were securing our federal loan due to the pandemic. Staying positive has kept us on task. Keeping and ensuring good accounting practices in order are a must, as well as, valuing your employees. And always, always, always put PEOPLE first!

**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS**

- Abundant Love Health Care LLC  
Dr. Ifeoma Achusim
- Fidelity Investments  
Leean Kravitz
- Grace Inventions LLC  
Chris Puckett
- Hands of the Caribbean, Inc.  
Fofo Voltaire
- RK Prop Realty  
Duc Germain
- Williams Trucking  
Clifford Williams



**NM SBA Announces Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year**



**Ron & Kathryn Edwards**

The AAGACC nominated the Edwards for this prestigious award and we're honored that they are recipients of the SBA 2020 Veteran Small Business Champion of the Year Award for their business, The Focus Group Ltd.

The Dba Focus Advertising Specialties is a Service-Disabled Veteran Owned Small Business in Santa Fe, NM.

The Edwards will be honored at the NM Small Business Week Awards ceremony the week of September 28, 2020. Our heartfelt congratulations!

Please contact Ivan Corrales 505-248-8227 [ivan.corrales@sba.gov](mailto:ivan.corrales@sba.gov) for event details.

**Albuquerque Journal – Women in Business Award**



**Theresa A Carson**

On July 27, 2020 the Albuquerque Journal celebrated the accomplishments of the recipients of this year's Women in Businesses awards. This impressive collection of talented, driven, and successful professionals is a tribute to how far women have come in the workplace in recent years and decades. One of the recipients for the Businesswoman in Business Services award was our very own: Theresa A. Carson, President of the African American Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce. Sincere congratulations to her for being one of this year's award recipients.

**Remember to Support Small Local Businesses!!!**

**for Listings and**

**Member Corner Announcements**

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**Valencia County Business Incubator (VCBI)**



**Ralph Mims**

BY STEPHEN HAMWAY /  
JOURNAL STAFF WRITER  
*Albuquerque Journal*  
Monday, August 10th,  
2020

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M.— A Valencia County business development program is breaking ground later this year, and economic development experts are optimistic it will keep more money and living-wage jobs in the community.

With help from a \$40,000 U.S. Department of Agriculture grant, a new business incubator at 22 El Cerro Loop in Los Lunas is slated to open by the end of the year.

Ralph Mims, economic development manager for the Village of Los Lunas, said he sees the program as a way to give talented entrepreneurs what they need to succeed in Los Lunas, rather than forcing them to seek those resources out in a larger city.