Michael Richards, MD, MPA is the Executive Vice President for The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center and CEO of the UNM Health System.

Dr. Richards has a background as both an administrator and physician, having served as Director of the UNM Center for Disaster Medicine and Medical Director of the EMS Bureau at the New Mexico Department of Health. He is also a professor and former chair of the Department of Emergency Medicine at the School of Medicine and former Chief of Staff at UNM Hospital.

He has served as the Interim School of Medicine Dean and as the Interim EVP twice before being appointed to that role in January of 2025.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, Dr. Richards stepped into a lead role with multiple delivery system partners to establish the state’s Medical Advisory Team. He was also instrumental in building a statewide health care delivery system, which included the development of an ICU plan, which efficiently managed a surge of COVID-19 patients in November and December of 2020.

Richards received his medical training at the Brody School of Medicine at East Carolina University and a Master of Public Administration at the University of North Carolina. He completed his internship and residency in emergency medicine at UNM.