



**“Learning Never Stops”
-Kevin Robinson-Avila**

Kevin Robinson-Avila graduated from FWC in 1984 after spending the majority of his undergraduate career in Latin America. Upon completion of his BA degree from FWC, he remained in Central America as a foreign correspondent until 1992 and since then has worked as an editor, PR Director and is currently a staff reporter for the New Mexico Business Weekly. Kevin and his wife live in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Name: Kevin Robinson-Avila

Year of Graduation: 1984

All Degrees Received:

Friends World College BA 1984

Why did you decide to attend the Friends World Program? How was the program different than others?

I chose this program based on two reasons. One, my older brother William Robinson was a fellow FWC Alumni and he introduced me to the university and global program and, two, I was fascinated by the experiential learning program that Friends World offered. I liked that this program gave me the ability to go out into the world and I can't imagine that I could have made a better decision.

What was your area of focus while in the program?

I earned a bachelor's degree in political science and Latin American studies in 1984 from the Friend's World program at Long Island University, which included 2 ½ years of course and field work in Latin America.

What are you currently doing professionally?

I am currently working for the New Mexico Business Weekly and American City Business Journals as a Staff Reporter. As a NMBW reporter, I concentrate particularly on local technology startups and new businesses formed by the Spanish-speaking immigrant community. My coverage highlights the challenges facing technology startups, as well as state and private sector efforts to grow investments in small New Mexico companies.

What additional things have you done in the past that you think readers may find interesting?

After graduating from Friends World, there wasn't anything that I learned that did not apply to my career. I have worked as a Foreign Correspondent in Central America, an Economic Affairs Editor and Editor to the University of New Mexico's Latin America Data Base, a News Writer and Media Liaison in New Mexico, and served as New Mexico State University's spokesperson for Spanish TV and radio. My time at Friends World set up my life to be much richer than I ever expected. I have made a great career for myself through the skills and knowledge I gained while attending Friends World, which to this day, is the only degree I currently hold. As a bilingual reporter, with fluently developed writing abilities and journalist skills, I possess skills that are highly in demand in the USA.

How have you been able to apply what you learned at Friends World to what you currently do?

Although I actually minored in Journalism, the Journalism career was a natural progression because of my work at Friends World College. I spent three years in Latin America, my final year as a journalism intern in Guatemala and focused 2/3 of my thesis on my direct experience in Central America. Journalism, for me, was the kind of job that you learning directly through your university work experience. Friends World allowed me to have the ability to freely approach journalism and gain the professional experience I needed.

What advice do you have for current and prospective students?

Back when I was in college there was an ongoing debate regarding the structure of the Friends World Program. In order to thrive in this community and environment, you MUST be self-motivated, disciplined, possess an outgoing personality and a deep desire to learn. You must strive to constantly learn and create your own structured environment, while taking advantage of the FWC/Global College structure in place. I truly believe that learning never stops and Friends World has founded itself on that ideal.