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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Susana Martinez Targets More Funding for AP Classes as National Report Shows New Mexico Students Need Better Access

SANTA FE – On the heels of Governor Susana Martinez’s announcement that her “New Mexico Graduates Now” program will expand access to Advanced Placement (AP) courses to thousands of students, a national report says few New Mexico students are taking advantage of the opportunity to earn free college credits. The ninth annual “AP Report to the Nation” showed fewer than 19 percent of New Mexico graduates took AP exams in many districts, with that number falling below one percent in some districts. High school students who achieve a passing grade on AP exams are awarded automatic college credits for the same course, saving time and money for students pursuing a college degree or certification.

“These classes not only help students pay for college, but better prepare them for the challenge of higher education,” said NMPED Secretary Hanna Skandera.

Under Governor Martinez’s “New Mexico Graduates Now” program, AP courses would be expanded to thousands of students. Recent results show 5,500 New Mexico students would likely succeed in AP courses even though only 2,100 currently do so. Governor Martinez has proposed \$2.5 million to help train more teachers in AP and expand the program to more areas of New Mexico.

In addition to the funding proposed under ‘New Mexico Graduates Now,’ the College Board has pledged an additional \$1 million dollar investment in New Mexico to further expand AP opportunities. Currently, New Mexico ranks 36th in the nation in AP achievement, with just 12.3% of New Mexico students earning a passing score of 3 or higher on an AP Exam before leaving high school. A score of 3 or higher not only gives the student college credit, but also demonstrates the student is ready for the rigors of college.

Note: Attached maps provided from the national report.

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