



State of New Mexico

Office of the Lieutenant Governor

Diane D. Denish
Lieutenant Governor

www.nmcentennialclass.com

September 1, 2009

Dear School Administrator:

Last year, I launched the Centennial Graduates Initiative. This initiative is for the Class of 2012, the class that will be graduating the year of New Mexico's Centennial. My goal with this initiative is to commemorate our state's 100th anniversary by engaging our 10th graders –our **Centennial Graduates**. I would like to take this opportunity to update you on what we have done so far.

During the 2008-2009 school year, I visited 20 high schools promoting this initiative and speaking directly to our students about the importance of graduating from high school. At these high school rallies, we talked to the students about service learning and dual credit opportunities. I also ask the students to take the "Centennial Graduates Pledge."

This summer I had the opportunity to work with Santo Domingo Pueblo students. We recorded a couple of Public Service Announcements (PSAs). In one of the PSAs the students recite the Centennial Pledge, and the other is focused on our Native American Students. The Centennial Graduates website is also up and ready for the students to use it as their personal resource. The PSA's and other relevant information are on the website. I encourage all the students to visit it at: www.nmcentennialclass.com

Over the next three years, our 2012 graduates will have the opportunity to take part in many statewide centennial projects as we prepare to commemorate our state's centennial anniversary. For our first project this year, I would like our Centennial Graduates to design their Centennial logo. Included with this letter is information about the centennial logo competition. This logo will be used on all official Centennial Graduates marketing materials to identify this exciting initiative. Please help me encourage students to participate.

As part of the celebration, I will be leading initiatives that highlight the importance of educating our youth for success, deepening connections to culture and community, and understanding New Mexico's past, present, and future. It is important for you to know that the Centennial Graduates Initiative will not add additional work to our teachers and administrators. The intention is to create excitement about the high school experience and graduation, and to increase engagement by bringing attention to existing programs and incentives. I encourage students to participate in a rigorous program of study that aligns to the High School Redesign requirements.

Promotion of the 2012 Centennial Graduates Initiative began last school year with freshman classes statewide. I have received positive reactions from students, parents, staff, and administration at the 20 high schools we visited including schools in Albuquerque, Las Cruces, Deming, Lordsburg, Silver City, Taos, Raton, and T or C. I plan to continue my visits this coming school year. Please contact my Director of Special Projects, Carlos Acosta at (505) 476-2256, to arrange a visit to a high school in your district or for more information about the Centennial Graduates Initiative.

I look forward to working with you as we celebrate and commemorate the unique culture, history, and people that have made, and will continue to make, New Mexico the Land of Enchantment.

Warm Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Diane D. Denish".

Diane D. Denish, NM Lieutenant Governor