



New Mexico
Public Education Department

300 Don Gaspar
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501-2786
ped.state.nm.us

Dr. Veronica C. García
Secretary of Education

Beverly Friedman and Danielle Montoya
Public Information Officers
505-827-6661 505-476-0393

Bev.Friedman@state.nm.us Danielle.Montoya@state.nm.us

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release: September 15, 2009

New Mexico's Jobs for America's Graduates Program Receives Two National Awards

98 % graduation rate and 96% placement rate for students in their programs

SANTA FE – The New Mexico Business Roundtable for Educational Excellence announced today that Jobs for America's Graduates – New Mexico (JAG-NM) received two national awards for students in its programs.

JAG-NM received the following recognitions from JAG, Inc. the national organization:

- **Top 4 High Performing State Organization in achieving an extraordinary Graduation Rate of the Class of 2008** with a rate of 98 percent.
- **Top 3 High Performing State Organization in achieving an extraordinary Full Time Placement Rate for the Class of 2008** with a rate of 96 percent.

JAG-New Mexico is a state affiliate of the Jobs for America's Graduates, Inc., one of the nation's most effective programs in assisting high-risk youth in successfully completing school and moving into the job market and/or higher education.

"Graduating more students is the goal of education, and this program is doing an excellent job meeting that goal," said New Mexico Education Secretary Veronica C. García. "I encourage school districts to look at this model to see what they can adapt to increase graduation rates."

The Jag-NM program serves youth at-risk of failing high school. In 2008-2009, Jag-NM served 229 at-risk youth in six high schools: Bernalillo High school, Choices Alternative in Clovis, Independence High School in Rio Rancho, Mora High School, Taos High School, and Twin Buttes High School on the Zuni Reservation.

Each program employs a local JAG Career Specialist, who works for the school district, and is accountable for the success of 35-45 students. Career Specialists ensure that students attain competencies in personal, leadership, communication, job attainment, job success, and career development skills.

JAG-NM was launched in 2004 under the leadership of Governor Bill Richardson and Veronica C. García, Secretary of Education. Governor Richardson serves on the national Board of Directors of JAG, Inc.

JAG-NM is sponsored by the New Mexico Business Roundtable for Educational Excellence (NMBREE) and funding is provided by the U.S. Department of Education Carl D. Perkins Act through the New Mexico Public Education Department.

For more information, contact Kay Provolt, JAG-NM State Director at kandgp@comcast.net.

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