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# NEWS RELEASE

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## New Mexico's Class of 2009 Hispanic Students Lead Nation in High Scores on Advance Placement Tests

Santa Fe, NM — New Mexico's class of 2009 led the nation in the percentage of Hispanic students who earned a score of 3-5 on at least one Advanced Placement (AP®) exam according to the College Board's annual *Report to the Nation* released last week.

According to College Board, the report uses a combination of state, national and AP® program data to provide each state with information to celebrate successes, understand challenges, and set meaningful data-driven goal to prepare more students for college success.

The graduating class of 2009 had 3,771 New Mexican students taking at least one AP® exam during high school compared to 3,769 from the class of 2008 and 3,080 from the class of 2004. There was a 3.9% increase in AP® participation in the 2009 class compared to the 2004 class.

The New Mexico report also noted the following highlights:

- 11.9% increase in the number of Hispanic students from the class of 2009 that took at least one AP® exam during high school as compared to the 2008 class
- 9.9% increase in the number of low-income students from the class of 2009 that took at least one AP® exam during high school, as compared to the 2008 class.
- 7.4% increase in the number of Hispanic students from the class of 2009 that earned a score of 3-5 on a least one AP® exam, as compared to the 2008 class.
- 5.7% increase in the number of low-income students from the class of 2009 that earned a score of 3-5 on at least one AP® exam, as compared to the 2008 class.

"Throughout New Mexico, educators have made the AP® experience available to more students by encouraging all students to challenge themselves and paying for the AP exam," said New Mexico Education Secretary Veronica C. García. "Because of this, we are seeing more Hispanic and low-income students participating and experiencing success with AP® courses."

To view the complete AP® Report to the Nation, go to <http://www.collegeboard.com/html/aprtn/index.html>

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