

Governor Bill Richardson Calls Presidential Debate a Huge Success for Albuquerque and New Mexico

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SANTA FE- Governor Bill Richardson today called last night's historic Democratic presidential debate a "huge success," saying, "Albuquerque and New Mexico were the true winners of the event."

"Months ago when I began working to secure this debate, my one goal was to put New Mexico and Albuquerque in the spotlight," said Governor Richardson. "I am very proud of the city of Albuquerque and the people of New Mexico, especially the staff and administration of the University of New Mexico for their great work. The debate was a huge success for New Mexico," Richardson said.

"Well over two hundred media representatives from Japan to Sweden to London, including journalists from every major city in the United States, highlighted Albuquerque, UNM and New Mexico, granting us tens of millions of dollars in free publicity," Billy Sparks, communications director for Governor Richardson said.

"Tourism is a vitally important sector of New Mexico's economy, and from the pictures of our blue skies to the green chile lunches, New Mexico will be remembered by all of the visitors and will be featured prominently around the world," Richardson said.

"For once, New Mexicans were given an opportunity to hear directly, in person, from the presidential candidates. The candidates promised to mount vigorous campaigns leading up to the February 3 Democratic presidential caucus. New Mexicans will never again be taken for granted or ignored."