



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

For immediate release
4/13/04

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Governor Bill Richardson Announces Call Center to Bring 250 New Jobs to Taos

Governor also announces Taos as selected Enterprise Facilitation participant

Taos - Governor Richardson made two significant economic development announcements for Taos at a news conference today. The first, Advanced Call Center Technologies, or A-C-T, is taking advantage of Taos' skilled call-center workforce, and turn-key infrastructure to open a full-service call center. This operation will provide customer support for major financial institutions throughout the country.

"We are committed to continuing to create high-wage jobs for New Mexicans. New Mexico won these jobs through the quick response of our New Mexico Economic Development Department, solid teamwork with the community of Taos, and our state's competitive financial incentives," said Governor Richardson.

A-C-T will hire up to 60 people immediately, and create approximately 250 jobs over the next four years. These jobs average at nearly 28-thousand dollars per year including wages, benefits, and bonuses.

ACT will generate \$5.8 million in new tax revenue for the State of New Mexico, and more than \$35 million in payroll and company spending during the next ten years.

Enterprise Facilitation

Governor Richardson also announced that Taos County has won the bid to become one of the first three communities in New Mexico to participate in an Enterprise Facilitation program. Taos County is one of three New Mexico communities chosen to participate in a 30-month Enterprise Facilitation process with the Sirolli Institute. Through the generosity of the McCune Foundation and with a commitment by each community to partially pay for this project themselves, funding will be provided for Taos, Grant and Luna Counties to work with the Sirolli Institute. Businesses that utilize “Enterprise Facilitation” have success rates that constantly exceed 80%.

“Helping New Mexicans stay in business, expand their business or start one is one of the most important things we do,” said Governor Richardson, “That is exactly what Enterprise Facilitation does - it helps communities keep, create and expand local companies. Imagine what this can do for the Taos community.”

Taos Charter School

Governor Richardson also announced allocation, with the help of the legislature, *one million dollars* in state capital investment funds for Taos Charter School, to help build a new campus that will put all grades, K-8, in one place.

Until now, charter schools have largely been ignored by the system, unable to receive state capital funding, dependent on donations and local districts already strapped for cash.

“Education is my top priority for New Mexico,” said Governor Bill Richardson, “That’s why we’ve authorized, and voters will have the chance to approve, **one point five million dollars** in General Obligation Bond funding for the U-N-M Taos campus. That’s why we’ve approved almost **200-million dollars statewide** in capital outlay and GO bond funding for public schools and higher education. And that’s why I will continue to work tirelessly to improve the education system for our children, to give them, and New Mexico, the best possible chance for success.”