



## **State of New Mexico** *Office of the Governor*

### **Governor Bill Richardson Announces New Economic Development Regional Office for Southeast New Mexico**

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ROSWELL-Governor Bill Richardson today announced the opening of a new economic development regional office in Roswell as part of a commitment to bring more businesses and high-wage jobs to Southeastern New Mexico.

“I am committed to partnering with local communities to build economic success across the state, especially in our rural areas,” said Governor Richardson. “Placing our Economic Development Department Regional Office at Eastern puts all the local economic development organizations under one roof and allows for one focal point. This will assist us in continuing to create better jobs for all New Mexicans.”

Governor Richardson made the announcement today during the opening ceremonies for the new Roswell Foreign Trade Zone, located at the Roswell Industrial Air Center.

In the coming weeks, the State will advertise and hire locally for a regional representative to serve DeBaca, Curry, Chaves, Roosevelt, Eddy, and Lea counties. The job will pay between \$35,000 and \$38,000 annually. The office will be co-located in the Small Business Development Center at Eastern New Mexico University-Roswell.

“I’d like to thank Judy Armstrong, ENMU Provost as well as Eugene Simmons, Director of the Small Business Development Center for their generosity in providing a home for our regional office,” the Governor said.

Governor Richardson also announced that during the upcoming legislative session he will also be introducing two initiatives to capitalize on an industry that is “taking off” in Roswell- aircraft maintenance:

- Expand the tax exemption for Maintenance, Repair, and Overhaul of aircraft to include smaller aircraft, and
- Eliminating the tax on aircraft that are worked on in Roswell, at AAR, Baldwin Paints, or other aircraft maintenance or repair companies, and then are “delivered” within New Mexico. Work performed on aircraft that are delivered within New Mexico is currently subject to gross receipts taxes.

“I believe the best way to encourage businesses to locate or expand in New Mexico is to lower the tax burden and give them incentives to commit capital and create high-wage jobs,” said Governor Richardson.

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