



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

News advisory
April 20, 2005

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Governor Richardson Declares this Week “Reach Out Now Teach-In Week”

SANTA FE - Governor Richardson has declared this week “Reach Out Now Teach-In Week” to recognize the underage drinking problem in New Mexico.

“In the past two years, we’ve made significant progress in our DWI laws,” Governor Bill Richardson said. “But tougher laws and longer prison sentences are only part of the solution. The cycle of drinking and driving can be prevented with early intervention and education of our youth. When our kids understand that underage drinking and drinking while driving is unacceptable. We can prevent another needless tragedy from occurring.”

First Lady Barbara Richardson is encouraging public schools in New Mexico to join with the federal Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration to raise public awareness about the dangers of underage drinking. “Young people in New Mexico need to know how to say no to alcohol. They need to know what it can do to their health today and tomorrow, and how it can impact their lives and the lives of others,” said First Lady Barbara Richardson. “We must reinforce our children’s ability to make good choices- the *right* choices.”

As part of “Reach Out Now Teach-In Week”, Nadine Milford, who has experienced personal tragedy when her family was hit and killed by a drunk driver, will be talking with middle school students on Thursday. Milford will speak at Garfield Middle School, 3501 6th Street in Albuquerque, at 10:30 a.m. on Thursday, April 21, 2005.

For more information about the Teach-In, Alcohol Awareness Month, and more, go to the SAMHSA site on the web at www.teachin.samhsa.gov or call SAMHSA at 1-800-729-6686.

The proclamation signed by Governor Richardson is as follows:

***WHEREAS**, in 2003, approximately 10.9 million drinkers were under legal age (ages 12 to 20); and*

***WHEREAS**, alcohol use among children and adolescents starts early and increases rapidly with age; and*

***WHEREAS**, by the time they reach the eighth grade, nearly 46 percent of adolescents have used alcohol illegally at least once, and more than 20 percent report having been “drunk”; and*

***WHEREAS**, in New Mexico, in 2003 an estimated 50.7 percent of youths ages 14-18 reported past-month use of alcohol and 35.4 percent reported past-month binge alcohol use; and*

***WHEREAS**, family factors, such as parent-child relationships; discipline methods; communication; monitoring and supervision; and parental involvement exert a significant influence on youth alcohol use; and*

***WHEREAS**, children can avoid the negative effects of alcohol and drugs with the care and support from family, friends, health professionals, teachers, clergy and others;*

***NOW, THEREFORE I**, Bill Richardson, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim April 18-22, 2005 as:*

“Reach Out Now Teach-In Week”

throughout the State of New Mexico.

Attest:

*Done at the Executive Office this
7th day of April, 2005.*

*Rebecca Vigil-Giron
Secretary of State*

*Witness my hand and the Great Seal
of the Great State of New Mexico*

*Bill Richardson
Governor*

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