



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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Governor Richardson Announces National Top 50 Ranking for Moreno Valley High School in Angel Fire

SANTA FE – Governor Bill Richardson today announced that Moreno Valley High School in Angel Fire has been ranked #36 in the nation in the Washington Post 2006 Challenge Index. The Washington Post Challenge Index measures a public high school's effort to challenge its students by dividing the number of Advanced Placement, International Baccalaureate or other college level tests a school has given by the number of seniors who graduated in June. Tests taken by all students, not just seniors, are counted.

“This ranking validates everything the people of the Moreno Valley did to help create this outstanding charter school,” said Governor Richardson. “I am proud that I helped this school get on its feet and that it is now performing so well at preparing local students for college and beyond.”

Governor Richardson has strongly supported efforts to ensure that charter schools can continue to create new, innovative educational programs like the one at MVHS. He has also worked with the legislature to ensure that charter school students, who are public school students, receive equitable funding. Governor Richardson also supported a \$250,000 appropriation to help MVHS build a new permanent facility. The school plans to begin work on the building this spring.

“Governor Richardson has been a good friend to charter schools in general, and Moreno Valley High School in particular,” said Mark Couhig, an MVHS founder. “We’d like to thank him for his help, and express our common belief that we literally couldn’t have done this without him.”

MVHS was chartered in 2002 to serve students in the Moreno Valley of northern New Mexico. Because of the excellence of its academic program, approximately 20 percent of the student body now commutes daily from Taos, Red River and Mora.

Hobbs High School joins MVHS in the Washington Post's Top 500, coming in at number 308 on the national ranking.

The full Washington Post rankings are available here:

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/education/challenge/2006/challengeindex01.html>

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