



NEW MEXICO HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT
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Bill Richardson
Governor

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Secretary

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September 29, 2009
For Immediate Release

Governor Bill Richardson Proclaims October as Disability Employment Awareness Month

Several Activities Scheduled to Promote Disability Employment Awareness

Santa Fe, New Mexico – Governor Bill Richardson has proclaimed October as Disability Employment Awareness Month, and encourages New Mexico citizens to help meet the many needs of people with disabilities.

“New Mexico is home to approximately 350,000 people with disabilities who are an integral part of our social and economic fabric,” said Governor Richardson. “The ultimate goal of all New Mexicans is to assure equality of opportunity, full participation, independent living, and economic self-sufficiency for people with disabilities.”

The New Mexico Human Services Department Medical Assistance Division, in partnership with the Department of Workforce Solutions, the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation (DVR) and the Governor’s Commission on Disability are working together by coordinating systems and bringing together people with disabilities, advocates, employers and other stakeholders to meet the employment needs of people with disabilities.

These four state partners, known as Focusing on Abilities (FOA) are partnering with several government and private organizations to co-sponsor several events across the state during Disability Employment Awareness Month.

- September 30 – October 2, 2009 – Annual SW Conference on Disability, Albuquerque Convention Center, 401 2nd Street NW, Albuquerque, NM. For more information visit the conference web site at <http://cdd.unm.edu/swconf> or call 505-272-6247.
- October 16 & 17, 2009 – Work Incentive Seminar Event (WISE), DVR Office, 5301 Central NE, Suite 1600, Albuquerque, NM. For more information, contact Karen Wiley at 505-954-8543 or Karen.wiley@state.nm.us
- October 26 & 27, 2009 – Disability Employment Awareness Month Activities and FOA Workshops, Roswell Convention Center, 912 N. Main Street, Roswell, NM. For more information, contact Terri Douglas at 575-624-6024 or tdouglass@state.nm.us

A copy of the Governor’s Proclamation is attached.

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