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New Certified Communities announced at the 2008 Governor's Economic Development Summit

SANTA FE—At the Governor's 2008 Economic Development Summit held in Tucumcari at the beginning of the month, four new Certified Communities were announced. The new communities include Artesia, Carrizozo, Catron County, and Eunice.

The Certified Communities Initiative (CCI) encourages and supports New Mexico communities in their efforts to create new jobs. The initiative emphasizes the importance of recruitment, retention and expansion and start-up activities. CCI community can be municipalities, counties, federally recognized Indian Tribes and unincorporated municipalities. Each community must meet eight mandatory requirements for certification, and two elective requirements, all focused on job creation and economic development.

“We are incredibly thrilled to be able to announce so many new additions to the Certified Communities Initiative. This is a wonderful opportunity for communities around our state to take their economic development to the next level, and we are excited to be working with all our new communities,” said Kathy McCormick, Business and Community Finance Representative for the Economic Development Department.

CCI communities receive contractual funding of up to \$5,000, per year for two years for special projects such as; workforce studies, grant writers, training expenses, and economic development impact studies. Communities are certified for two years at a time, and then they are allowed to apply for recertification.

This year 11 communities were recertified, bringing the total number of CCI communities to 41 in the state of New Mexico. Re-Certified Communities: Alamogordo, Bosque Farms, Clovis, Espanola, Estancia Valley Economic Development Association (Edgewood, Moriarty, Mountainair, Torrance County), Lovington, Mesilla Valley, Pueblo of Pojoaque, Roswell, Santa Fe, and Tucumcari.

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