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For Immediate Release  
October 7, 2008

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## **New Mexico Youth Entrepreneur Network awards State Student Business Plan Winners**

SANTA FE—At the Governor’s 2008 Economic Development Summit held last week in Tucumcari, the winners of the State Student Business Plan Competition were announced. Five students were awarded money for use in developing their businesses.

The State Student Business Plan Competition is organized by the New Mexico Youth Entrepreneur Network, and sponsored by the New Mexico Economic Development Department. Students from six different communities from around the state submitted business plans for review by a team of judges from universities, economic development agencies, and education leaders. The winner, Alex Bleyker received a check for \$800 which he plans on using to buy a greenhouse to grow his organic vegetables. The first prize winner also received the Casimiro Foundation and the Magic Wand Foundation Business Camp Scholarship to the Disney World and Annual International Business Camp in August, 2009 with five nights lodging, camp fees, program materials, daily meals and local tours.

“These children are the future workforce and business leaders of New Mexico. Helping them understand the importance of entrepreneurship is vital to our state’s future economy. The battle for talent within a workforce has begun, it has never been more important to grow and develop our state’s potential workforce,” said Patricia Chavez of the New Mexico Economic Development Partnership Board, and the New Mexico Youth Entrepreneur Network.

**Winner: \$800**

Second Place: \$600

Third Place: \$500

Fourth Place: \$300

Fifth Place: \$150

**Alex Bleyker, Gallup Greenland Vegetables, plans to grow organic vegetables.**

Dulce Avitia and Sara Maes, Chrysalis, plan on selling high end perfumes and cosmetics in their rural community where it is hard to find these items.

Colleen Garcia, The Ice Queen, makes and distributes ice in her rural community where it is difficult to get ice for parties and events.

Sophia Trujillo, Pro-Ink, a custom silk screening company

Krystal Sanchez, Krystal’s Beaded Lanyards, handmade beaded lanyards

The sponsoring teacher or parent of the five place holders also received \$200 for their support and participation on behalf of the students.

Sponsors included; NM Small Business Development Centers, Regional Development Corporation, ENLACE, Atrisco Foundation, FastSigns on the 2, Fidelity Investments, Insight LLC, MVD Express, PLC Enterprises and Schott Solar.

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