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# NEWS RELEASE

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## New Mexico Low-Income Seniors and Hispanics Lead the Nation on AP® Exams

**Santa Fe, NM** — New Mexico's senior class of 2010 led the nation in the percentage of low-income seniors taking and succeeding on the Advanced Placement (AP®) exam according to the College Board's annual *Report to the Nation* released today. Additionally, Hispanic students in the state had one of the highest participation rates in the nation (49.4%) and the highest percentage of students scoring 3 or higher on an AP® exam.

"Rigorous coursework, such as Advanced Placement courses, prepare students for greater success in college and the workforce," said New Mexico Education Secretary Hanna Skandera. "While New Mexico has fortunately seen increases in the number of students taking and scoring a 3 or higher on AP exams, especially among our minority and low-income students, we must do more to advance bold education reform in our schools. Under the leadership of Governor Martinez, the Public Education Department is committed to implementing innovative measures to improve the quality of education for every New Mexican student."

A total of 9,861 AP® exams were taken by the graduating class of 2010. New Mexico had 3,980 students taking at least one AP® exam during high school compared to 3,771 seniors in 2009 and 3,769 in 2008. New Mexico had a 22.3% participation rate while the national average was 28.3% for the class of 2010.

The results showed an increase of 9.57% from 2009 in the number of seniors who scored 3 or higher on at least one AP test; 45.73% of seniors who took the test scored 3 or higher on at least one exam. Compared to other states, the percentage of New Mexico students who had at least one score of 3 or higher on an exam was 10.2%, while the national average was 16.9%.

The three most popular AP exams in New Mexico are English Language and Composition, English Literature and Composition, and U.S. History. New Mexico students scored the highest in Spanish Language, German Language, Psychology, Calculus BC, and European History.

Governor Martinez has made improving education in New Mexico a top priority and is committed to ensuring every student has access to quality schools and teachers. Her "Kids First, New Mexico Wins" plan is comprised of four key initiatives to increase accountability and transparency, set our students up for success by ending social promotion, target our resources where they are needed the most and identify and reward our most effective educators and leaders.

To view the complete AP® Report to the Nation, go to <http://www.apreport.collegeboard.org>

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