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NEWS RELEASE

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Governor Martinez Forms Task Force to Reward New Mexico Teachers

SANTA FE – Governor Susana Martinez issued an Executive Order on Monday to support New Mexico’s students and champion excellent teachers. Recognizing that strong teachers are essential to successful students, Governor Martinez has formed the “New Mexico Effective Teaching Task Force.” The task force will have up to 15 members and will include education leaders, teachers and parents. Their goal will be to find an effective system for recognizing great teachers around New Mexico. The task force will find ways to identify, recruit and retain great teachers and report back with their recommendations by August 31, 2011.

“Great teachers produce great students, and great students are absolutely essential to the future of New Mexico,” said Governor Martinez. New Mexico Public Education Department Secretary-designate Hanna Skandera added, “We want to make sure those teachers who are making a big difference not only get the recognition they deserve, but also to serve as role models and show the full potential we can achieve.”

Monday’s executive order put in place many of the ideas contained in Senate Bill 502 which passed the Senate and made it the floor of the House of Representatives just as time on the 2011 regular session ran out. “The sponsor of SB 502, Sen. Cynthia Nava (D-Las Cruces) worked tirelessly for the opportunity to make sure great teachers are recognized in New Mexico,” said Secretary-Designate Skandera.

Nominations for members of the task force will begin immediately. Those encouraged to apply include: teachers, school district leaders, and business officials with a strong desire to serve New Mexico’s students. Those interested must e-mail a letter outlining their qualifications to teacher.evaluation@state.nm.us by 5pm on Monday, May 2nd. Each letter should include the following information:

Name:
Phone(s) (work-cell):
Email Address:
Address (Street, City, State, Zip):

Current position and stakeholder group represented:
If an educator, current license held:

Please discuss the expertise the nominee has related to those areas described in the scope of work of the Task Force.

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