



PRESS RELEASE

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Report: NM Workforce Not Prepared for Jobs of Next Decade State must reform adult basic education and post-secondary systems

ALBUQUERQUE—Forty percent of job openings in the next decade are expected to require more than a high school diploma, but almost three-quarters (71 percent) of New Mexico working age adults lack even a two-year college degree. Until we invest in the education of our workforce, we cannot expect many of those new jobs to locate in the Land of Enchantment.

Those are the findings of a new report from New Mexico Voices for Children, ***Bolstering the Basics: Helping New Mexico Families Work Their Way Out of Poverty***. The report includes several recommendations for how the state can better prepare its workforce for the jobs of the future.

The report will be released at the New Mexico Governor's Forum in Santa Fe on Monday, October 25. The Governor's Forum, *Building a Green Tech and Health Care Worker Pilot Program*, will concentrate on two high-growth industries—health care and green technology—and how to help more New Mexicans who are already in the workforce prepare for them. A schedule of the day's events is attached separately as a pdf.

NM Voices for Children Research Director Gerry Bradley has been invited to present some of the report's findings at the Forum. The report is part of the national initiative Working Poor Families Project.

The full report is available online at http://www.nmvoices.org/fpp_publications.htm

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New Mexico Voices for Children is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization advocating for policies to improve the health and well-being of New Mexico's children, families and communities.
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