



## **NEW MEXICO COALITION FOR LITERACY**

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*For Immediate Release*

### **GRANT FROM VERIZON SUPPORTS NEW MEXICO COALITION FOR LITERACY \$20,000 Grant to Retain and Restore Statewide Training and Technical Assistance**

**Santa Fe** – The New Mexico Coalition for Literacy (NMCL) has been awarded a \$20,000 grant from the Verizon Foundation in support of its Literacy Training and Technical Assistance Program. The grant will be used to maintain the number of certified training sessions for new adult literacy tutors that the NMCL provides at various local, community-based volunteer adult literacy organizations around the state. The grant will also provide training and professional development to local boards of directors, program directors, and the adult literacy students themselves. Previously, the Foundation awarded a \$20,000 grant to the NMCL to increase its training and technical assistance services and expand its outreach to underserved populations through student advocate, turned self-published author, Marten Griego (*Leaving the House of Tears*, Future Destinations Publishing, 2006).

In New Mexico, it is estimated that almost seven hundred thousand adults could benefit from literacy services - sixteen percent are estimated to be illiterate and thirty percent are estimated as functionally illiterate, according to national estimates and Census data. With one of the highest poverty rates in the nation, New Mexico also has one of the highest percentages of adults who are low-literate.

Since 1987, the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy (NMCL) has provided funding, training, technical assistance to adult literacy programs throughout the State. The

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NMCL was established under the Carruthers administration by First Lady, Kathy Carruthers, and has remained a First Person's priority since its founding. Begun as an effort to gain support through the State Legislature to provide modest operating expenses for community-based adult literacy programs, the NMCL has grown in both stature and capacity to support these programs, all while maintaining a small and efficient staff of three. The NMCL is unique since no other organization provides the training necessary to certify volunteer adult literacy tutors or the funding to support local program operations. One-to-one adult literacy tutoring must be provided by tutors trained in accordance with national standards set by the national literacy organization, ProLiteracy and local programs are supported through national accreditation assistance.

"We are pleased to support the efforts of the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy as the organization's goals are aligned with the Verizon Foundation's efforts to advance literacy," said Brian Danfield, president, Verizon Wireless Southwest Region.

The NMCL is largely funded by the New Mexico Department of Cultural Affairs/State Library through the New Mexico State Legislature and also relies on fundraisers, individuals, grants, and the business community to support its work.

For more information about adult literacy, to volunteer as a tutor, schedule an interview, or refer a potential student, call the NMCL's literacy hotline at 1-800-233-7587 or email [info@nmcl.org](mailto:info@nmcl.org). You may also visit the NMCL's website at [www.nmcl.org](http://www.nmcl.org).

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