

For Immediate Release

June 9, 2006

Contact:

Rena Paradis, Executive Director  
New Mexico Coalition for Literacy  
505-982-3997  
800-233-7587  
e-mail: [info@nmcl.org](mailto:info@nmcl.org)  
website: [www.nmcl.org](http://www.nmcl.org)

The New Mexico Coalition for Literacy, a private, state-wide literacy service provider, gave awards on their 20th anniversary, at their Annual Meeting in Rio Rancho, to individuals who have been outstanding supporters of adult literacy in New Mexico. Volunteer adult literacy programs from throughout the state attended, and watched proud practitioners receive recognition. Andrae England, Director for the Roswell Literacy Council, received an award for Best Program of the Year in the state, and Marcos Martinez, from Literacy Volunteers at Central New Mexico Community College (formerly TVI), received the Student of the Year award for his outstanding perseverance, hard work, and accomplishments. The Board President's award, given by Harry Pearson, outgoing President, went to Dr. Elizabeth Gordon, of Albuquerque and Carlsbad, as an outstanding supporter of the Coalition as a board member, and Donna Aragon, literacy coordinator for CNM, received the Trainer of the Year Award for training volunteer tutors and promoting good board management and recognition of learning disabilities among adult learners. The New Mexico Coalition for Literacy named the NM State Library as it's Partner of the Year, as they have worked on projects together involving adult and family literacy.

One in five adults reads at or below a 5th grade level in New Mexico. The Coalition currently funds 28 programs located in just as many cities and towns in New Mexico, and provides training and technical assistance to a total of 90 programs involved in the field of literacy. The demand grows, as more adults ask for assistance in improving their reading skills.

Those interested in volunteering as a tutor or receiving help with reading skills can call the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy hot line at 1-800-233-7587 to find a program near you.

- END -