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Governor declares Literacy Day

For the Headlight

Posted: 09/05/2011 12:00:00 AM MDT

SANTA FE Governor Susana Martinez has declared Literacy Day throughout the State of New Mexico on Sept. 8, in conjunction with the 45th annual celebration of International Literacy Day nation and worldwide. Local adult literacy programs throughout New Mexico will declare Literacy Day in their local communities with mayoral proclamations and citywide celebrations.

The United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organization leads the United Nations Literacy Decade under the slogan, Literacy as Freedom. Launched at UN headquarters in 2003, the UNLD aims to increase literacy levels to empower all people worldwide. UNESCO established September 8, as International Literacy Day in 1965 to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities, and societies around the world. Seven-hundred and ninety-six million adults worldwide reported not being able to read and write and two-thirds of them were women, according to UNESCO's Institute for Statistics (2008).

In New Mexico, it is estimated that 706,627 adults could benefit from literacy services 16 percent are estimated to be illiterate and 30 percent are estimated as functionally illiterate. With one of the highest poverty rates in the nation, New Mexico also has one of the highest percentages of adults who are illiterate and functionally illiterate.

Since 1987, the New Mexico Coalition for Literacy has provided funding, training, technical assistance to adult literacy programs throughout the state.

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. You may also visit the NMCL's website at www.nmcl.org.

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