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Gov. declares Literacy Day

From reports
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Governor Susana Martinez has declared Literacy Day throughout the State of New Mexico on September 8 in conjunction with the 45th annual celebration of International Literacy Day. 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, Sci_entific, and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) leads the United Nations Literacy Decade (UNLD) under the slogan, "Literacy as Freedom."

Launched at UN headquarters in 2003, the UNLD aims to increase literacy levels to empower all people worldwide. UNE_SCO established Sept. 8 as International Literacy Day in 1965 to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities, and societies around the world.

Seven hundred 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 (NMCL) has provided funding, training, and technical assistance to adult literacy programs throughout the State.

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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 funded by the New Mexico Depar_tment of Cultural Affairs_/State Library through the New Mexico State Legislature and also relies on fundraisers and community support to increase the number of students served. 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.

- From reports

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