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Eagle Nest, Springer Receive Certified Community Initiative Status

CLAYTON – The village of Eagle Nest and town of Springer received the New Mexico Economic Development (NMEDD) Certified Community Initiative (CCI) designation on Wednesday. The CCI certificates were presented to the communities by Jon Barela, NMEDD cabinet secretary, during a Northeast Regional Planning Organization meeting in Clayton.

“This designation has many benefits and will help encourage economic growth in Eagle Nest and Springer,” Barela said. “We look forward to working with these communities to foster an environment for strong job growth.”

Secretary Barela presented the certificates to the village of Eagle Nest Mayor Richard Cordova and Village Administrator Lynda Perry, and to the town of Springer Mayor Danny Cruz, Economic Development Corporation board member Gary Reese and EDC director Luis Ortiz.

“We really appreciate the New Mexico Economic Development Department implementing the Certified Communities Initiative,” Cordova said. “This program allows not only the large communities, but the small rural communities to recruit business and create new jobs. The village of Eagle Nest has recently completed an online brochure and has begun a marketing campaign toward the top 100 wealthiest counties in the United States to recruit small outdoor recreation-product manufacturing companies, adventure travel companies, ‘Lone Eagles,’ and publishers. We expect the ripple effect of the business marketing campaign to be an increase in tourism and potentially more retirees choosing to live in the Moreno Valley.”

“On behalf of the town of Springer, we are proud to extend our sincere appreciation to the Economic Development Department for selecting and awarding the town of Springer Economic Development Board the coveted Certified Communities Initiative award,” Cruz added. “While our group is small, each member is to be commended for contributing and volunteering valuable skills and time towards strategic economic development for our community. On behalf of our community, we extend our sincere thanks and appreciation to all involved.”

CCI was formed in 2003 to encourage and support New Mexico communities in their efforts to create new jobs. The initiative emphasizes the importance of recruitment, retention and expansion and start-up activities. CCI communities can be municipalities, counties, federally recognized Indian Tribes and incorporated municipalities. Each community must meet nine mandatory requirements for certification, and two elective requirements, all focused on job creation and economic development. Once implemented, communities are required to recertify every three years.

CCI communities receive contractual funding of up to \$5,000, per year for three years for special projects such as; workforce studies, grant writers, training expenses and economic development impact studies. Communities are certified for three years then eligible for recertification thereafter.

More information can be found about the program at the Economic Development Department’s web site www.goNM.biz

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