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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 13, 2013

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New Mexico's Job Training Incentive Program Provides \$1,116,622 in Funding to Aid in Creation of 190 Jobs

SANTA FE - The Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP) board approved \$1,116,622.18 in funding to aid in the creation of 190 jobs at its March board meeting. The funding will be distributed to nine companies to assist in covering the cost to train employees. The next JTIP Board meeting will be held on April 12, in Albuquerque.

“JTIP is a great program that invests in New Mexico workers and assists businesses while new employees learn the skills needed to perform their jobs,” said Economic Development Cabinet Secretary Jon Barela. “The JTIP program is a true asset to the state and is nationally ranked as the third best workforce development program.”

Sunland, Inc., a STEP-UP project within the JTIP program, received \$25,951.43 in funding to go towards implementing training programs for current employees at their plant in Portales.

New Mexico's STEP-UP Training Program supports economic development in New Mexico by reimbursing qualified companies for a portion of direct training costs associated with enhancing the job skills of incumbent employees. STEP-UP was established as a supplement to the New Mexico Job Training Incentive Program to assist qualified companies with job training for their existing workforce.

This month's JTIP recipients are:

- **Real Rock Replications – Albuquerque** - Real Rock Replications (3R) is a family-owned company, founded by Victor, Dan and Matt Larrañaga in October 2012. 3R is a start-up manufacturing company that manufactures replications of real New Mexico rocks and tree stumps, which are used to create unique, handcrafted, fire and water landscape features. **3 jobs - \$13,480**
- **InfoWhere, Inc. – Albuquerque** – focuses on the Geographic Information Systems Market (GIS). The company has partnered with Esri, Inc., the world leader in GIS technologies, and continues to develop an understanding and anticipation of the GIS market trends and developing cutting edge software and solutions. **1 job - \$36,428**
- **Mega Corp, Inc.- Albuquerque** - is a leading producer of specialty haulage equipment for the construction and mining industries. The company's products can be found in operation at mines, construction sites, military and municipal installations worldwide. **12 jobs - \$79,320**

- **National Water Services, Inc. – Santa Fe** - the company manufactures installs and services FreshPure Waters™ purified water vending systems in 37 states nationally and has a presence in Canada. Its primary customers are Whole Foods Market, Earth Fare Market and natural foods co-ops. **1 job - \$7,140**
- **Skinfrared, LLC – Albuquerque** – is a woman owned small business that specializes in the research and development of next generation infrared images and their applications in biomedical diagnostics. **1 job - \$18,875**
- **PreCheck, Inc. – Alamogordo** - provides background investigation services for a diverse range of clients. The company has added a strategic focus on the specialized needs of hospitals, clinics and other healthcare providers to its founding expertise in criminal background investigation. PreCheck is now the largest Credential Verification Organization providing background and credentialing service to the healthcare industry. **41 jobs- \$264,564.75**
- **Still Solutions – Albuquerque** - was founded in Albuquerque in 2004 and specializes in turning its clients' technology needs into working, successful business solutions in the areas of telephony, security and hosting systems for all computer-based technology needs. **2 jobs - \$32,460**
- **Lowe's Customer Support Center – Albuquerque** – Lowe's Home Centers, Inc. located a Customer Support Center in Albuquerque in March 2012. The Customer Support Center serves multiple support functions for Lowe's including Customer Care, Store Support, Internet Support, and Repair Services. **129 jobs-\$638,403**

About JTIP

The Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP) reimburses qualified economic-based companies for a portion of training costs associated with job creation. The program provides for classroom or on-the-job training, reimbursing an expanding or relocating business for up to 75 percent of a trainee's wages for as long as six months. To qualify, new or expanding companies must either create a product in New Mexico, or provide a non-retail service with 50 percent of the company's customer and revenue base outside of the state. The eligible jobs must be full-time and year-round. The trainee must be a new hire to the company and have been a New Mexico resident for at least one continuous year at any time prior to being hired.

About STEP-UP

STEP-UP was established as a supplement to the New Mexico JTIP to assist qualified companies with job training for their existing workforce. STEP-UP Training Program reimburses qualified companies for a portion of direct training costs associated with enhancing the job skills of incumbent employees. STEP UP helps companies to provide fundamental training in areas such as integrating new technology into production processes, product line adjusting to keep up with market demands, or substantial change in delivery processes -- all factors which may require new skills or technological capabilities. STEP UP may also be used to prepare an employee to advance within a company and earn a higher salary. Allowable activities for STEP-UP include, but are not limited to, training to upgrade existing skills or provide new skills to incumbent workers.

For more information on JTIP and STEP-UP, visit www.goNM.biz

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