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## **Secretary Jon Barela Announces Medicus Billing & Consulting Expanding to Las Vegas, Creating 10 Jobs**

**Las Vegas, NM** - During the grand opening of the New Mexico Highlands University Business Hub, Economic Development Secretary Jon Barela announced that Medicus Billing & Consulting is choosing Las Vegas for the home of their third office. The move will create up to 10 well-paying jobs and will add more jobs as they grow. Medicus was approved in August for \$50,420 in Job Training Incentive Program funds to help create new jobs.

"Supporting the growth of rural jobs is a key component of our economic development efforts and businesses like Medicus are great partners in that mission," Secretary Barela said. "A competitive business tax climate and tools like LEDA, JTIP and our community development program all play a role in diversifying our economy and creating good jobs for New Mexicans."

Medicus is a high-tech medical billing firm which got its start in Hot Springs, AR and has another office in Poteau, OK. Medicus recently purchased a historical building in Las Vegas and renovation is currently underway.

"We are thrilled to be in New Mexico and have received tremendous support from the state and Las Vegas community," said Cyndi Walker, president of Medicus. "New Mexico has a welcoming business environment and an exceptional workforce and we're looking forward to serving our clients throughout the country from our new location."

Additionally, NMEDD invested \$15,000 in the New Mexico Highlands Business Hub through its Local Economic Development Assistance & Development Support (LEADS) program, which is designed to jumpstart economic development projects in rural communities.

"Entrepreneurs are a significant piece of our efforts to grow jobs," said Bill Hendrickson, executive director of the Las Vegas/San Miguel Economic Development Corporation. "Whether it's incubating homegrown, startup businesses or attracting jobs like those at Medicus, the business hub and incubator is a cornerstone for a strong workforce and business development effort."

The first tenant of the New Mexico Highland Business Hub is the Safety Zone Credentialing, that develops training programs for heavy equipment operator certification through the state, region and even nationally. The initial use for the 6,800 square feet of space are eight offices, one co-working area, one lab, conference room, and large conference/training room comprising of 3,100 square feet. The remaining 3,700 square feet is available for future expansion.

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