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Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham
Cabinet Secretary Alicia J. Keyes
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**MEDIA ADVISORY: N.M. and U.S. Small Business
Administration ink cooperation agreement**

The U.S. Small Business Administration and the New Mexico Economic Development Department will sign a formal agreement at 8 a.m. on Friday Sept. 27 to better collaborate and share resources that will boost business growth and create jobs.

The Strategic Alliance Memorandum agreement signing event is set for 8 a.m. at the National Hispanic Culture Center Salon Ortega Building, 1701 Fourth St. SW, Albuquerque, N.M. 87102.

The purpose of this Strategic Alliance Memorandum is to develop and foster mutual understanding and a working relationship between the SBA and New Mexico Economic Development Department in order to strengthen and expand small business development throughout the state.

"Small business is the bedrock of our economy in New Mexico," said Cabinet Secretary Alicia J. Keyes of the Economic Development Department. "The services and tools provided by the SBA are important for empowering our small business owners and strengthening our economy."

With the new agreement, state economic development representatives and SBA officials will be able to better collaborate and assist with programs and grants, including technical assistance, joint marketing, seminars and conferences.

"This is an example of our partnership with the state of New Mexico for economic development, entrepreneurship and small-business development," said Justin J. Crossie, Regional Administrator with the SBA for New Mexico, Oklahoma, Texas, Louisiana and Arkansas. "This relationship is important to ensure New Mexico small businesses have the tools they need to succeed in today's competitive environment."

Crossie will be joined at the signing by SBA's New Mexico District Office Representative John Garcia, and Ivan Corrales, Deputy District Director.

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