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N.M. Economic Development Partners with UNM Rainforest Innovations to Empower Underserved Entrepreneurs

SANTA FE, N.M. – The New Mexico Economic Development Department's Justice, Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion Office (JEDI Office) and the UNM Rainforest Innovations New Mexico Tribal Entrepreneurship Enhancement Program (NMTEEP) have formalized a collaboration aimed at advancing underserved business owners and entrepreneurs throughout the state.

“The partnership between the JEDI Office and NMTEEP represents an opportunity to further the goals of both programs. By working together, we aim to empower underserved business owners and entrepreneurs, eliminate barriers to success, and promote equitable economic opportunities for all New Mexicans,” EDD Deputy Secretary Jon Clark said.

This [Memorandum of Understanding](#) will catalyze joint efforts to organize events, workshops, and programs, as well as initiatives to enhance marketing and data sharing. Additionally, the partnership will emphasize financial literacy programs, and technical assistance tailored to the unique needs of underserved businesses and entrepreneurs.

"By joining forces, the JEDI Office and NMTEEP will create a more inclusive and supportive ecosystem for underserved entrepreneurs in New Mexico," Shani Harvie, Coordinator of the JEDI Office, said. "This partnership aligns perfectly with our vision of ensuring that all business owners, including indigenous entrepreneurs, and regardless of their background, have access to the resources and opportunities they need to thrive."

Cecilia Pacheco, Program Manager of NMTEEP, added, "UNM Rainforest Innovations is excited to collaborate with the JEDI Office in our shared mission of supporting entrepreneurs in tribal communities and those affected by coal mine closures. Together, we can make a meaningful impact on economic development and entrepreneurship in New Mexico."

For more information about the JEDI Office, please visit <https://edd.nm.gov/jedi>.

For more information about NMTEEP, please visit <https://innovations.unm.edu/tribal-entrepreneurship/>. You can also [view this informational video](#).

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*Taos HIVE Community Entrepreneurship
Engagement Event, August 2023*



*Shani Harvie and Rita Veleta, JEDI Office
Coordinators*

EDD's mission is to improve the lives of New Mexico families by increasing economic opportunities and providing a place for businesses to thrive. EDD's programs contribute directly to this mission by training our workforce, providing infrastructure that supports business growth, and helping every community create a thriving economy.

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