



### Teaches Vets how to start, manage a business

SANTA FE – Gov. Susana Martinez announced March 30 that the New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center has been recognized as the best in the nation by the U.S. Small Business Administration. The outreach center, which teaches veterans how to start and manage a business, will receive the “Excellence in Service” award by the Small Business Council.

“I’m proud of the staff at our Veterans Business Outreach Center. This is a job well done. Because of their hard work, veterans are learning the ins and outs of starting and managing a business of their own,” Martinez said. “This is a well-deserved recognition, and I have no doubt that our team at the outreach center will continue the great work they are doing for our brave men and women who served our country.”

Workshops by the center include “VBOC on the Road,” and “VBOC on the Rez.” These programs, in partnership with local chambers of commerce, teach veterans in rural communities how to start a business. More than 1,300 New Mexico veterans have attended these free workshops since 2011.

The Veterans Business Outreach Center is funded through a grant issued by the Small Business Administration and is managed by the New Mexico Department of Veterans Services. In addition to providing free one-on-one business counseling for veterans, the center hosts training conferences and workshops – all with the goal of helping more veterans start their own business.

## **NM Veterans Business Outreach Center recognized as top in nation**

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“We’re proud of the work being done by our Veterans Business Outreach Center division,” NMDVS Secretary Jack Fox said. “It comes as no surprise that one of the most hard-working, diligent and integrity-filled teams I’ve ever worked with is being given such praise and recognition.”

New Mexico Veterans Business Outreach Center Director Joseph Long and his staff will be presented the award at a special ceremony in Washington D.C. on May 1 as part of “National Small Business Week.”