

SUSANA MARTINEZ
GOVERNOR

JON BARELA
CABINET SECRETARY

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Contact: Angela Heisel
(505) 629-5148
Angela.Heisel@state.nm.us

****Media Advisory****

**New Mexico Economic Development Secretary Jon Barela to Announce
Recipients of Financial and Technical Assistance Awards to Rural Communities to
Develop Commercial Kitchens**

Santa Fe - As part of Farm & Field Day at the state Legislature, New Mexico Economic Development Department (NMEDD) Secretary Jon Barela will be joined by the Rio Grande Community Development Center to announce recipients of NMEDD's Commercial Kitchen Initiative's financial and technical assistance for the development of USDA-Grade community commercial kitchens in rural communities throughout the state.

Several New Mexico community commercial food kitchens have successfully assisted local food entrepreneurs get their food businesses off the ground. Commercial kitchens allow food entrepreneurs work out of a USDA-approved facility and provide with marketing and distributing expertise. The goal is to replicate successful commercial kitchen models to build a network of commercial kitchens statewide, especially in rural communities. The commercial kitchen initiative is part of NMEDD's five-year strategic plan to support rural community sustainability.

WHEN: 9 a.m. Wednesday, January 28, 2015

WHERE: Rotunda of the State Capitol
Santa Fe, NM

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