

For Immediate Release
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NNMC Professor Invited by Department of State to Address Solar Forum
Andres C. Salazar, PhD discusses Energy Management with Palestinian Universities

Espanola, NM – March 25, 2009 – Northern New Mexico College (NNMC) announced today that the U.S. Department of State had invited Dr. Andres C. Salazar, Interim Director of the NNMC Solar Energy Research Park and Academy (SERPA) to address students and faculty at two Palestinian universities as part of the agency's U.S. Speaker/Specialist series of talks administered by its Institute of International Information Program (IIP). The talks, sponsored by IIP, foster face-to-face dialogue between American experts and citizens of other countries on topics requested by U.S. diplomatic missions in those countries. Dr. Salazar's talks were held this week live via digital video conferencing with audiences at Al Quds University and Palestine Polytechnic University in Hebron. The talks were based on Dr. Salazar's work in SERPA regarding global energy management and solar energy conversion.

"We were happy to have Dr. Salazar help us out in addressing key energy issues with audiences at both of these universities," said Cynthia La Covey, Program Officer at the U.S. Department of State in Washington, D. C. Dana Rassas, our Cultural Affairs Assistant in the Jerusalem office of the American Consulate, indicated that the talks were well received by the faculty and students.

Dr. Salazar joined the University of New Mexico as Professor in its engineering and business schools in 2002 and in 2007 transferred to NNMC after a 34 year career in the high tech industry on the east coast with the last eight years in Atlanta as CEO of a public high tech company. He worked for eighteen years at Bell Laboratories and various divisions of AT&T, his last position there as Vice President and CTO of AT&T Paradyne. During 1975-6 he was a telecom expert for the United Nations stationed in Mexico City. He also spent eight years as an executive at high tech companies in the Boston area between stints at AT&T.

SERPA was established in 2008 by the 49th New Mexico Legislature via the SERPA Act and initially funded with \$3 million for facilities associated with its mission of education, research and policy development in the areas of solar energy conversion and storage. SERPA is housed in NNMC'S College of Engineering that received in 2008 the Higher Learning Commission's approval to offer a Bachelor of Engineering in Mechanical Engineering with a Solar concentration. The College of Engineering expects to award its first baccalaureate degrees to eight students in May 2009 in the field of information technology.

"NNMC is addressing a global energy issue with SERPA and we are proud to be recognized as an institution that is willing to collaborate with others in finding practical solutions that benefit us all," stated Dr. Jose Griego, President of NNMC, a long-time advocate of regional sustainability.

The mission of Northern New Mexico College is to provide open access, affordable, quality educational opportunities in a modern technological environment by providing baccalaureate, associate degree and certificate programs in liberal arts, education, health sciences, engineering and workforce development programs that empower students to excel.