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\$1.2M in State Job Training Funds Approved for October *JTIP applicants are hiring and training up to 117 trainees and interns*

SANTA FE, N.M. – The New Mexico Economic Development Department (EDD) approved Job Training Incentive Program funding in October to six businesses in Albuquerque, Santa Teresa, Sunland Park, and Los Alamos to add employees or train existing workers with modernized skills, EDD Cabinet Secretary-Designate Rob Black announced today.

The Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP) reimburses companies for training new employees and interns in qualifying jobs and for training current staff wishing to improve their skills for potential promotion through the Step Up Program. JTIP focuses on high-wage jobs and incentivizes hiring employees in rural areas, as well as for veterans and recent New Mexico higher education graduates. To learn more, visit the JTIP webpage at edd.newmexico.gov/JTIP.

Since Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham took office in 2019 the JTIP program has awarded over \$65 million for job training to 225 companies in 25 New Mexico counties.

“The JTIP program is giving businesses more confidence to expand and add employees,” EDD Secretary-Designate Black said. “The October round of funding not only supports new workers but gives existing employees the opportunity to learn new skills and earn a higher wage – and that is how we grow the economy.”

EDD approved seven JTIP awards to six companies in October, for a total of \$1,183,382. Average wages range from \$22 to \$59 per hour for businesses in the manufacturing, handcrafted jewelry, software development, cybersecurity, meat processing, and quantum technology industries.

Franklin Mountain Packaging LLC, Santa Teresa, 2 trainees through the Step Up Program. Franklin Mountain Packaging (FMP) manufactures corrugated sheets and provides digital printing and die-cutting services for the corrugated box-making industry. FMP is installing equipment in their newly leased 150,000-square-foot building to increase production.

Award amount: \$26,250

Infinity Labs, LLC, Albuquerque, 1 trainee at a wage of \$44.47. Infinity Labs serves the defense industry with software development, modeling and simulation, and general research and development. Infinity Labs is also developing products utilizing similar technologies developed for the defense industry but targeted toward commercial applications. New Mexico customers include the Air Force Research Laboratory and Sandia National Labs. New Mexico personnel also contribute to projects outside the state.

Amended award amount: \$25,437.

Securin, Inc., Albuquerque, 10 trainees at an average wage of \$58.97 and 10 interns at an average wage of \$25.62. Securin was also approved for training 3 existing employees through Step Up.

Securin provides customers with a comprehensive suite of security solutions such as ASM, VI, Vulnerability Management, and Penetration Testing. The company aims to be a global leader in early warning cybersecurity capabilities.

JTIP award amount: \$470,467. Step Up awarded: \$9,499

Stampede Culinary Partners, Inc., Sunland Park, 80 trainees at an average wage of \$15.31. Stampede Culinary Partners is a provider of portion-controlled protein solutions, serving food service, retail channels, home delivery, and industrial channels. Stampede Culinary Partners' production capabilities include further processing such as portioning, marinating, packaging, forming, and cooking. **Award amount: \$455,830.**

Turquoise Skies, Albuquerque, 6 trainees at an average wage of \$22.33. Turquoise Skies offers authentic handcrafted Southwest jewelry manufacturing, produced by blending traditional handcrafting techniques with lost wax casting. The only components needed are silver, bronze, and turquoise. Silver/bronze grain is sourced from Rio Grande Jewelry Supply or Legor in Albuquerque. The bulk of the turquoise is sourced from Kingman Arizona or Comptos, Mexico. This is Turquoise Skies' first JTIP application. **Award amount: \$56,170**

UbiQD, Inc., Los Alamos, 5 trainees at an average wage of \$48.33. UbiQD is powering product innovation in agriculture, clean energy, and security. Their quantum dots enable products that harness the power of color and light, and their greenhouse technology, UbiGro®, uses fluorescence to create a more optimal greenhouse spectrum for crops. The company's first commercial product, UbiGro®, is a luminescent layer of light that uses fluorescence to create a more optimal greenhouse spectrum for crops. The film shifts the colors of sunlight to make plants grow faster and improve crop yield. **Award amount: \$139,730**

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Photo courtesy of UbiQD, Los Alamos, NM.



Photo courtesy of Franklin Mountain Packaging, Santa Teresa, NM

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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