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State Awards Job Training Funds to 14 Companies in November and December

Awards will assist in training up to 395 employees, trainees, and interns

SANTA FE, N.M. – Fourteen New Mexico companies have been approved for funding through the New Mexico Economic Development Department’s Job Training Incentive Program (JTIP) for November and December of 2023, Acting Cabinet Secretary Jon Clark announced. Eight companies were approved for training funds in November and six others in December.

Companies seeking training funds are located throughout New Mexico – Albuquerque, Belen, Bloomfield, Las Cruces, Los Alamos, Roswell, Sunland Park, and Taos. Most of these companies are bringing high-tech, high-paying careers to their communities and may train up to 395 workers.

JTIP funding is disbursed to approved companies on a reimbursement basis, after all training is complete. Businesses have a certain amount of time to hire employees and spend the training grants or the award is surrendered, going back to EDD for future JTIP utilization. The program has been instrumental in bringing, keeping, and growing New Mexico companies while also providing strong encouragement for companies to hire and train New Mexicans in key positions.

The final awards for calendar year 2023 brings the annual total of 44 companies assisted in 11 New Mexico counties. Depending on the employment market and the pace of hiring, the JTIP money can support as many as 1,273 job trainees.

“In the past year, the JTIP program has reached all corners of New Mexico,” Acting EDD Secretary Clark said. “These grants give businesses the opportunity to train workers for higher-paying jobs and expand their workforce with new hires. JTIP is helping to boost economic security for New Mexico families.”

November awards are available to cover partial training expenses for 250 newly hired trainees, 32 interns, and 39 incumbent employees through JTIP's Step Up program. The eight companies whose applications have been approved are eligible for a total of up to \$3,852,642.

AerSale, Inc., Roswell, 49 trainees at an average wage of \$26.22 and 30 interns at an average wage of \$20.79. Award total is \$1,104,589.60. AerSale, Inc. provides support services to the airline industry and specializes in the lease and sale of mid-life aircraft, while also offering comprehensive material solutions and asset management services.

Arcosa Wind Towers, Belen, 115 trainees at an average wage of \$23.47 for a total award of \$1,522,180.80. Arcosa is a provider of infrastructure-related products and solutions with leading positions in construction, energy, and transportation markets.

Calgon Carbon Corporation, Bloomfield, approximately 39 trainees through the Step Up program for a total of \$33,943.70. Calgon Carbon is an acknowledged leader - over 80 years in production - in the activated carbon and reactivation industry for many liquid and vapor phase applications. The company has created cutting-edge purification systems for drinking water, wastewater, odor control, pollution abatement, and a variety of other industrial and commercial manufacturing processes.

ErgoTech Systems, Inc., Los Alamos, 3 trainees at an average wage of \$45.20 for a total award of \$78,807.48. ErgoTech was founded with a mission to develop software to be used by engineers with little or no programming or software development skills to build applications for collecting data from and monitoring industrial equipment and machinery and display the values from these processes and machines on user interfaces.

Infinity Labs, LLC, Albuquerque, 12 trainees at an average wage of \$65.68 for a total award of \$445,702. While primarily serving the defense industry with software development, modeling and simulation, and general research and development, Infinity is also developing commercial products for market utilizing similar technologies but targeted towards commercial applications.

KiloNewton, LLC, Albuquerque, 4 trainees at an average wage of \$38.75 and 2 interns at an average wage of \$25. Total approved award is \$121,890. KiloNewton provides technical and engineering analysis and software design for the renewable energy sector. The company provides a mixture of consulting and software R&D, primarily focused on the optimization of large-scale solar, wind, and renewable technology.

LoadPath, LLC, Albuquerque, 5 trainees at an average wage of \$54.03 for a total award of \$156,014.36. LoadPath specializes in the development and delivery of advanced engineering products and services. The company's core capabilities focus on the design, analysis, testing, and manufacturing of aerospace structural systems and components, particularly those critical to the launch vehicle and satellite community.

Stampede Meat, Inc., Sunland Park, 62 trainees at an average wage of \$14.70 for a total award of \$389,514. Stampede Meat Inc. is a leading provider of portion-controlled protein solutions. The company creates seasoned and prepared value-added meats, portion cuts, and a variety of fully cooked meats.



AerSale projects 30% - 50% growth in their workforce in the next two years. Photo courtesy of AerSale.

Six more companies were approved for JTIP funding during the December board meeting. Funds of up to \$591,516.12 could train as many as 74 employees, 40 of which are current employees looking to upskill through JTIP's Step Up program.

CAVU Aerospace, Inc., Roswell, is looking to train 40 or more current employees through a Step Up award of \$61,600. CAVU Aerospace has become one of the world's leading providers of aircraft asset management, disassembly, and recycling services while supporting various models to include wide- and narrow-body transport-category airframes and engines.

Higher Cultures LLC, Las Cruces, 7 trainees at an average wage of \$19.25 for a total award of \$44,370. Higher Cultures New Mexico operations are focused on cannabis processing. Higher Cultures supports and works closely with established New Mexico cultivators to secure quality throughput material, which they turn into quality cannabis oil to be used in various products at the wholesale and retail levels.

Pajarito Powder LLC, Albuquerque, 5 trainees at an average wage of \$40 for a total award of \$116,169.72. Pajarito Powder is an established leader in advanced catalyst and catalyst support development in rapidly accelerating clean/green hydrogen energy industries.

Paradise Power Company, Inc. (PPC Solar), Taos, 7 trainees at an average wage of \$28.71 for a total award of \$123,612. PPC Solar specializes in the development, design, and installation of commercial, utility, and residential photovoltaic systems.

Southwest Composite Works, Inc. (SWP), Albuquerque, 9 trainees at an average wage of \$22.51 for a total of \$80,276.40. SWP has focused on pattern making and tooling for a variety of industries. The company produces fully engineered CNC precision machined foundry patterns, permanent molds, and tooling for advanced composites. The company specializes in tooling solutions, innovative design and engineering, technical knowledge, and expertise.

Spiritus Technologies PBC, Los Alamos, 6 trainees at an average wage of \$56.92 for a total award of \$165,488. Spiritus has built a novel approach to direct air carbon capture that relies on a material that absorbs carbon dioxide passively. The company has developed a particular architecture that mimics the alveoli in the lungs in order to maximize the surface area for carbon dioxide to make contact with the material.



In 2020, PPC Solar opened an office in Albuquerque to serve as a central jumping off point for installing ChargePoint Electric Vehicle stations throughout the state. Photo courtesy of PPC Solar.

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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.