



**Bill Richardson, Governor**  
**Michael Spanier, Acting Secretary**

*Hazel Mella, MA*  
*FBCI Director*

November 18, 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

New Mexico is proud of its interfaith community, and even more proud of young people who demonstrate our shared values of educational achievement, civil public discourse, dedication to the common good, and compassion for humanity.

Therefore, it is with sincere enthusiasm that I wish to pay tribute to YOUTH MEDIA PROJECT's team of young radio broadcasters who have received a special invitation to cover the proceedings of the global conference of the Parliament of the World's Religions in Melbourne, Australia.

Dolna Smithback, Karmen Gallegos, and Eliot Fisher -- all educated in Santa Fe high schools -- are not only talented media producers, they are representative of the cultural diversity that makes New Mexico a welcoming place for people of all faiths and traditions. Their voices will help link together a global community of young people who are the world's peacemakers and future leaders of inclusive communities.

Please know that the Governor's Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives support this project and personally appreciates any kindness that you may bestow upon these young ambassadors, as they make their long journey to Australia. We are so very proud of them, and delighted to know they will be bringing your country closer to us by means of their radio broadcasts.

Sincerely yours,

Hazel Mella, Director  
Office of Faith-Based and Community Initiatives