

Washington, D.C. – Congressman Ben Ray Luján of New Mexico’s Third District highlighted President Obama’s plan to help put people back to work by training workers for high-demand industries at America’s community colleges. Luján, who has been a supporter of stronger community colleges, introduced legislation earlier this Congress to provide grants to community colleges in order to support job training in the growing clean energy sector.

“Community colleges are a critical component of the effort to strengthen our economy and train individuals for good jobs in growing fields,” Congressman Luján said. “I am pleased that President Obama’s latest initiative will help build on the important role community colleges play in training those seeking new skills that can help them get ahead, and I look forward to seeing the details of the program. By investing in our community colleges and the students they serve, we can prepare them for a brighter future and jobs in growing industries from clean energy to health care.”

President Obama’s Community College to Career Fund will help forge new partnerships between community colleges and businesses with the goal of training two million workers for good-paying jobs in high-growth and high-demand industries. It provides funding for community colleges and states to partner with businesses to train workers in areas such as health care, transportation, and advanced manufacturing. These investments will give more community colleges the resources they need to become community career centers that provide students vital skills that local businesses are looking for right now.

Luján’s [Community College Energy Training Act](#) also seeks to strengthen community colleges and improve their capability to train students in preparation for clean energy jobs. The legislation would provide funding to create community college programs that focus on the renewable resource industries in a given region, allowing students to train in fields that impact their own communities. The grants would support the training of technicians to work in the wind, solar, geothermal, and biomass energy sectors. The bill also covers other energy-related occupations, including energy-efficient building construction and retrofitting, recycling and waste reduction, water and energy conservation, and sustainable agriculture.

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