



TODD G. DICKSON | The Las Cruces Bulletin

A group of Las Cruces residents listen to Jemez Pueblo second Lt. Gov. Kevin Shendo give a blessing before the start of a casino career fair presentation Saturday.

Casino careers considered

BY TODD G. DICKSON
The Las Cruces Bulletin

Since graduating from Las Cruces High School, Arabella Hernandez has held a couple of temporary jobs to help support her biology studies at New Mexico State University.

But the 19-year-old said she'll need to make more money if she wants to become a doctor, which was why she was at a casino career fair Saturday.

Circle P, the company hired by the Jemez Pueblo northwest of Albuquerque to develop its proposed casino in Anthony, N.M., held a series of well-attended casino career fairs Saturday and Monday in Anthony, near Vado and in Las Cruces.

The purpose of the fairs was to develop a

pool of potential employees so that training needs will be identified early to be ready to open quickly if the pueblo's off-reservation casino application is approved, said Denise Greenlaw Ramonas, Circle P's chief of staff.

Before a full casino is built, a temporary casino would be opened with six months of approval, Ramonas said, and about 450 employees would have to be ready to work.

"It's been the intent of the pueblo to follow the best practices of the casino industry," she said. "One of the things we've learned from others is that they didn't start getting ready to hire and train employees soon enough."

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