

"BORDER VOICES"

The words - "Border Epidemiology & Environmental Health Center" - had little meaning to me less than a year ago. It wasn't that I had no knowledge of the "New Mexico Border", because I did. I have lived in Las Cruces (Doña Ana County) for over fourteen years, in that time making several trips to El Paso and Juarez was the extent of my traveling. After taking a summer class entitled "Border Health Seminar", at N.M.S.U. in Las Cruces, NM, I began to open my eyes to the huge arena of political, and human rights issues right under my nose.

This insight gave me a desire to pursue more knowledge about the struggles, hardships and let us not leave out the positive influences (such as people like you and me having the vision to see the "New Mexico Border Region" become a trusted and dependable friendship), to accept the responsibility of producing a weekly information and response page on BEC. Through this (new subject matter weekly) border health webpage, we can address and research issues such as education, immigration, and economic/trade in relationship to health, within the New Mexico Border Region. This region consists of the areas of New Mexico, Chihuahua, and West Texas.

We are one community and neighbors, consisting of a smorgasbord of ethnicities and cultures. The New Mexico Border Region is to become a system, a well-oiled machine and needs positive input and action from readers like yourself. the BEC (being the first center of it's kind on the US border), wants you to not only be informed about the health related issues going on in our "Front Yard", but to get involved with our community and neighbors.

During this Spring 2001, as you visit this site, we will be adding, on a weekly basis to our list of how Border Health Issues affect everyone. Your comments are welcomed and encouraged at this "New" page and will be added to an ongoing conversation list. From this list, other topics may be explored in the future. This is a page of exploration and information, and your input is necessary for our success.

Deborah Jackson, writer