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INTERACTIVE DOCUMENTARY HIGHLIGHTS GIRLS ISSUES



Monday, June 12 7 to 8pm
KOAT 7

ALBUQUERQUE, NM —

"I repeat over and over again that I am strong and I can succeed."
Hope Ulibarri, Teen Mother

Hope Ulibarri is among dozens of teen women throughout the state who have worked the past year to help produce a documentary about issues important to girls. It all began almost two years ago, when the Commission on the Status of Women held a young women's conference "The Year of the Girl" and through a survey found that the five key issues on the minds of teen girls were: date violence, pregnancy, substance abuse, body image and depression.

"These issues must be addressed not only by our state, but by communities across our state. These young women will help bring these topics into community conversations throughout New Mexico and help create important change," says Mary Molina Mescall, Executive Director of the Commission on the Status of Women, the organization that is spearheading the production.

The "Girls: Challenges/Choices" project, which includes a unique interactive documentary broadcast with statewide youth input, is being produced by Emmy © Award winning Christopher Productions.

The project is presented by The New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women, NM Public Education Department, NM Department of Health, ValueOptions New Mexico, and NM Children, Youth and Families Department with additional support from the McCune Foundation.

“We asked all-girl video crews to create stories about each of the issues,” says producer Chris Schueler. “They researched the issue and then totally produced a news package that will run on KOAT news as well as giving us video about the topic for the documentary.” The news stories will run on KOAT’s 5pm newscast the week of June 5 as a lead up to the documentary.

In addition, the girl produced stories will reside at www.yearofthegirl.com along with specific questions about each of the topics. Those answers will be a catalyst for discussion during the live portions of the interactive documentary. “It’s really a unique genre where we will air part of the pre-produced documentary and then come back live into the studio to talk with young women and experts about the issue,” says Schueler. “Additionally, our partner ValueOptions New Mexico has set up **web cams** at each of their regional offices where girls will gather the night of the show and we will involve them live in the program.”

“We’ve been very fortunate to partner with experts from the NM Dept. of Health, the Public Education Department, and the Children, Youth and Families Department and use their knowledge and expertise to create this unique program for young women,” Mescall said.

Mary Lynn Roper, President and General Manager of KOAT-TV responded "It will take all of us to address these issues that are crucial to New Mexico’s future. KOAT welcomes the opportunity to provide a forum to open discussion for these amazing young women."

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES: www.yearofthegirl.com

The New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women has created a website that allows for discussion of this issue and links to a variety of resources. The television broadcast itself includes an active internet component. Viewers can log on and be linked to the student produced video and email comments and ideas about the issues that will be scrolled during the broadcast.

THE FOLLOWING PROJECT PARTICIPANTS ARE AVAILABLE FOR INTERVIEWS:

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