

Intel misses hiring benchmarks in NM

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP) — Intel Corp. will have to spend \$100,000 on school-to-work programs after missing hiring benchmarks set for its plant in New Mexico.

This marks the third time in five years the computer chip manufacturer has failed to ensure that 60 percent of new hires at its Rio Rancho plant are New Mexico residents, the Albuquerque Journal reported Saturday (<http://bit.ly/199v7gm>).

As technology becomes more complex, the company is having more difficulty finding candidates who have the needed degrees in science and engineering, said Liz Shipley, the company's government affairs manager in New Mexico.

"It's not just in New Mexico; we're seeing a shortage throughout the country," Shipley told Sandoval County commissioners this week.

Intel has about 3,300 employees at its Rio Rancho plant. The 60 percent hiring goal was one of the conditions the county set in 2004 when it approved a \$16 billion revenue bond for Intel.

A report presented to the county commission showed that about 26 percent - or 19 of the 74 employees the company hired in 2012 - were state residents.

Intel missed its in-state hiring goal in 2011 and 2009 as well. In 2011, 35 percent of 349 new hires were from New Mexico. In 2009, three of eight new hires were state residents.

Intel spokeswoman Natasha Martell Jackson said Friday that the company is committed to working with New Mexico schools to improve paths to technology and engineering careers.

The school-to-work

programs that receive the \$100,000 are designed to prepare students to enter the job market. Money is distributed to public school systems in Rio Rancho, Bernalillo, Cuba and Jemez Valley, based on enrollment figures.

Rio Rancho used the \$70,000 it received when Intel missed the target in 2012 to establish a course in "cybersecurity" at V. Sue Cleveland High School. About 30 students are enrolled in the class this year.

In 2012, the Rio Rancho plant was one of several Intel facilities to run a six-week "boot camp," which gave university engineering students the opportunity to shadow Intel engineers at the plant. The program drew about 90 students.

Martell Jackson said the company is considering running the program again in Rio Rancho.

Intel is also a partner in the Mission: Graduate project. United Way of Central New Mexico, the University of New Mexico, Central New Mexico Community College, local school districts and business leaders have teamed up for the project, which aims to add 60,000 new associate, bachelor's and graduate degrees to central New Mexico by 2020.

Information from: Albuquerque Journal, <http://www.abqjournal.com>