

Supporting our State and our Students

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# FY27 UNIFIED HIGHER EDUCATION PRIORITIES

Endorsed by the Higher Education Regents Coalition

New Mexico Council of University  
Presidents (CUP), James Johnston, Chair

New Mexico Independent Community  
Colleges (NMICC), Becky Rowley, Chair

New Mexico Association of Community  
Colleges (NMACC), Sabrina Ezzell, President

Legislative Finance Committee

December 10, 2025

# THANK YOU

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**Eastern New Mexico University \* New Mexico Highlands University \* New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology \* New Mexico State University \* Northern New Mexico College \* Western New Mexico University \* University of New Mexico**

**Central New Mexico Community College \* Clovis Community College \* Luna Community College \* Mesalands Community College \* New Mexico Junior College \* New Mexico Military Institute \* Northern New Mexico College \* San Juan College \* Santa Fe Community College \* Southeast New Mexico College \* Western New Mexico University**

**ENMU-Roswell \* ENMU-Ruidoso \* NMSU-Alamogordo \* NMSU-Dona Ana \* NMSU-Grants \* UNM-Gallup \* UNM-Los Alamos \* UNM-Taos \* UNM-Valencia**

## **WITH YOUR SUPPORT -**

- academic enrollment increased 3.6% from Fall 2024 & 2025
- trained or provided paid internships/ apprenticeships in high-demand fields to over 6,200 students in FY2025



# THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING STUDENTS

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With your continued support of the **Lottery Scholarship** and the **Opportunity Scholarship**, New Mexico has

- the fifth lowest level of student debt<sup>1</sup>
- the third smallest proportion of students with debt<sup>2</sup>

With your support of **New Mexico post-secondary education**

- New Mexico ranks **9th** in the U.S. and District of Columbia in **social mobility index**<sup>3</sup>



1. WalletHub September 18, 2025;



2. Education Data Initiative June 26, 2025;



3. CollegeNet 2025

# INSTRUCTION & GENERAL

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## FORMULA FUNDING

a **4.70% increase** in formula funding, **\$42.5 million**.

- Inflation has increased higher education costs by **3.7%**.<sup>1</sup>
- An additional **1.0%** to help address skyrocketing health insurance costs.

## LEGISLATIVE MANDATES

Fully fund mandates that require new institutional services.

Fully fund any new employee benefits.

1. Mountain States Higher Education Price Index

# COMPENSATION

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## **EQUIVALENT TO STATE AGENCIES**

Allow institutions the flexibility to implement an 'average' compensation increase. Each percentage requires a \$12.7 million appropriation.

## **STATE MANDATED EMPLOYEE BENEFIT ENHANCEMENTS**

Request full funding for increased costs due to any state changes in employee benefits, such as increasing the mandated employer share of insurance benefits.

# NON-RECURRING REQUESTS

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## **Campus Safety**

**\$20.0 million** for campus safety equipment, including access controls.

## **CHECS Cybersecurity**

**\$13.1 million** working in conjunction with HED and DoIT to protect institutions from cyber threats.

## **Building Renewal & Replacement**

**\$100.0 million** to address deferred maintenance and demolition for health & safety reasons

## **Equipment Renewal & Replacement**

**\$10.0 million**, to support instruction & general equipment



# SECTOR SPECIFIC REQUESTS

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## Workforce Training; Paid Internships, Externships, and Apprenticeships

Institutions are currently gathering data to demonstrate the return on investment of the NM GRO appropriation. We will be requesting predictable, sustainable funding in the 2027 Legislative Session.

## Innovation Hub Package

**\$100.0 million** Appropriation to the Economic Development Department to invest and develop commercialization within New Mexico's research universities and national labs, including public private partnerships.

## Technology Enhancement Fund

Continued support for TEF



# REGARDING -

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## Dual Credit

### We request -

- language requiring the Public Education Department to provide funding up to the standard tuition rate to post-secondary institutions for dual credit students.

## Lottery & Opportunity Scholarships

### We support -

- continued funding for these important New Mexico student scholarship programs.
- review of the programs, including sustainability.
- recognition of the needs of students in allowing exemptions for at-risk students and hardships.



# PRIORITY RECAP

# 2026 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

## **I&G FUNDING**

- 4.7% increase in I&G funding

## **COMPENSATION**

- increase commensurate with state employee/public education increases, allowing for flexibility
- Funding for state mandated employee benefit changes

## **NON-RECURRING**

- \$100.0 million for the EDD Innovation Hub Package
- \$20.0 million for Campus Safety
- \$13.7 million for Cybersecurity
- \$100.0 million for Building Renewal & Replacement
- \$10.0 million for Equipment Renewal & Replacement

## **OTHER**

- Support for Workforce Training; Paid Internships, Apprenticeships
- Support for the Technology Enhancement Fund
- Adopt Dual Credit language

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

**Central New Mexico Community College**  
**Clovis Community College**  
**Eastern New Mexico University**  
**ENMU - Roswell**  
**ENMU - Ruidoso**  
**Luna Community College**  
**Mesalands Community College**  
**New Mexico Highlands University**  
**New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology**  
**New Mexico Junior College**  
**New Mexico Military Institute**  
**New Mexico State University**  
**NMSU - Alamogordo**  
**NMSU - Dona Ana**  
**NMSU - Grants**  
**Northern New Mexico College**  
**San Juan College**  
**Santa Fe Community College**  
**Southeast New Mexico College**  
**Western New Mexico University**  
**University of New Mexico**  
**UNM - Gallup**  
**UNM - Los Alamos**  
**UNM - Taos**  
**UNM - Valencia**



NEW MEXICO  
**ASSOCIATION of  
COMMUNITY  
COLLEGES**

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