

FALL OPERATIONAL PLANS FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES – STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

FOR NEW MEXICO INDEPENDENT
COMMUNITY COLLEGES

Presented to the Legislative
Finance Committee July 16, 2020

About Us

New Mexico Independent Community Colleges:

Independent Community Colleges:
Clovis CC, CNM, Luna CC,
Mesalands CC, NM Junior College,
Santa Fe CC, San Juan College

Special Schools: New Mexico
Military Institute

Dual Mission Universities:
Northern New Mexico College,
Western New Mexico University



Strategic Priorities

Protect the health, safety, and wellbeing of our students, faculty, and staff

Reinvigorate efforts to provide job training particularly to individuals displaced from their jobs

Increase collaborations between colleges in preparation for further budgetary belt tightening



Specifics About Operational Planning

- All NMICC institutional plans for the Fall semester are fluid and evolving. As the virus surges and wanes and as Executive Orders change, so will our plans.
- NMICC institutions have worked together to develop their individual campus plans by sharing research on best practices and discussing options for addressing various scenarios that may unfold. Plans are informed by our collective wisdom.
- All plans have been guided by well-respected sources. Samples include:
 - Center for Disease Control
 - US Department of Education
 - NM Department of Health
 - American Association of Community Colleges
 - National Association of College and University Business Officers
 - American Council on Education
 - Applicable Athletic Conferences
- Community college plans will look different from university plans because community colleges ARE different from universities.
 - With the exception of NMCI and NMJC, our community colleges do not have dorms or dining halls.
 - Very few community colleges have athletics programs.
 - Our campuses are commuter campuses where students come and go often multiple times in one day.
- All plans include new and expanded wrap-around student support services to help students navigate life in the age of COVID-19.
 - Help accessing benefits such as unemployment, food assistance, housing assistance, childcare support
 - Support in coping with the mental health impact of COVID-19
 - Guidance in strategies for keeping up with college coursework when children are on hybrid or changing public school schedules.

Innovation & Collaboration: An Example

The Challenge:

- Guidelines suggest New Mexico needs about 600 contact tracers based on our population size, but currently we only have about 200.
- Colleges and universities need assurance there will be rapid response from contact tracers in order to quickly minimize spread when COVID positive individuals are identified on our campuses.
- Not all institutions are financially able to hire contact tracers to assist.

The Solution:

- Through partnerships with higher education institutions, the Governor's Office, DOH, and HED, we are developing a plan to give qualified students credit toward internships or clinicals for working as contact tracers.
 - Training to be provided by the state consistent with all contact tracers
 - Students in disciplines such as nursing/healthcare, social work, and public health gain valuable experience
 - Students stay on track to graduate even when there are limits to clinical sites due to COVID-19
 - Higher education institutions assist in increasing the number of contact tracers collaboratively, and without additional payroll expenses

Details of the Santa Fe Community College Operational Plan

- Most instruction will be online.
- Some CTE will be offered face-to-face in very small groups.
- All student services will be fully online.
- All academic support services will be fully online.
- Upgrades will be made to the Trades and Advanced Technology building ventilation.
- Temperature checks, screening questions, and sign in will be required at each entrance.
- Kids Campus will open for fall.
- Masks required in all public spaces.

Enrollment Challenges

Traditional enrollment projection models are not relevant now.

As things are today, Fall enrollments are likely to be down from last Fall.

If the extra \$600/week enhanced unemployment benefit is not extended, will we see an influx of students?

If a new relief package includes a work search or education/training requirement for enhanced unemployment benefits, will displaced individuals seek to enroll in community colleges?

If public school schedules change, will students with children be able to find reliable and affordable childcare that is flexible enough to allow them to keep up with their own studies?

Will institutions be forced to limit course offerings due possible additional reductions in state appropriations, thus limiting our ability to meet enrollment demands?



Bottom Line

Our institutions have solid plans developed in consultation with each other and with the guidance of expert sources.

We stand ready to pivot quickly in our planning depending on the trajectory of the virus, changes in Executive Orders, and other factors that may influence enrollment levels.

Safety of our students, faculty, and staff comes first.

We are needed now more than ever to serve displaced workers and to do our part in shaping a more robust, diverse economy.

