



NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION OF COMMUNITY COLLEGES

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Government Restructuring Task Force
411 State Capitol
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

Government Restructuring Task Force Members:

This letter is in response to the committee's request for the higher education institutions to present recommendations on cost savings and efficiencies that would address the statewide budget shortfall for fiscal year 2012. It is important to note that every year the New Mexico Association of Community Colleges (NMACC) participates with the Higher Education Department (HED) to develop budget recommendations through HED's Formula Funding Task Force. This year, the process included lengthy discussions concerning the growth in enrollment at each two-year institution; the inability to fund that growth; and the future status of the higher education funding formula.

NMACC in keeping with precedence prefers to use the Higher Education Department's funding recommendation as a starting point for funding higher education for fiscal year 2012. As additional cuts are needed to balance the statewide budget, our recommendation is to consider equitable percentage adjustments in the general fund appropriation for each institution. Our recommendation also includes a zero to low percent tuition credit to allow institutions to raise revenue without being penalized.

Finally, NMACC understands that funding for education and higher education in particular is facing uncertain times due to the weak economy. This situation has forced serious discussions on how New Mexico's higher education will be funded in the future. Therefore, NMACC supports a comprehensive review of the entire funding formula to address funding fiscal year 2013 and beyond.

NMACC would like to commend the work of this committee and the difficult task you with which you have been charged. Thank you for allowing NMACC the opportunity to provide feedback to you on this issue. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns and I will be happy to bring to the attention of our membership.

Regards,

Ty Trujillo
Executive Director