



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

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GOVERNOR RICHARDSON ANNOUNCES STATEWIDE PUBLIC AGENDA FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

Innovation, college readiness and access, collaboration key components.

SANTA FE – Governor Richardson today announced the statewide public agenda for higher education in New Mexico.

“As Governor, I promised to make positive changes in the state’s education system for the benefit of all New Mexicans,” said Governor Richardson. “Secretary McClure has created a public higher education agenda that is innovative, inclusive, and deeply rooted in the future economic health of our state.”

Last year, Governor Richardson and the New Mexico State Legislature created the Higher Education Department and appointed Higher Education Cabinet Secretary Dr. Beverlee McClure. Over the last twelve months, Secretary McClure and the New Mexico Higher Education Department have re-positioned the former Commission on Higher Education to focus on stronger outreach to students, higher quality service to institutions, better collaboration among colleges and universities and public education and the business community, and expanded awareness and understanding of the value of higher education to improving quality of life in New Mexico. Working with students, faculty, staff, community members, businesses, and leadership of the state’s colleges and universities, Secretary McClure has created a statewide public agenda for higher education.

The statewide public agenda will:

- Increase student access and success;

- Innovate to meet current and future educational needs efficiently and effectively;
- Provide programs and services integral to state and regional economic needs; and
- Position New Mexico Higher Education to be ranked in the upper echelon by improving national rankings.

“It is a new day for higher education in New Mexico,” said Higher Education Secretary Dr. Beverlee J. McClure. “Every decision we make, every effort we emphasize, and every dollar we spend will be aligned under the umbrella of the statewide public agenda to move higher education in New Mexico forward. We will anticipate and exceed the needs of future generations of students and in so doing will re-invent the foundations of New Mexico’s workforce and economy.”

The agenda will provide more opportunities for all New Mexicans, regardless of age or income, to attend the state’s colleges and universities. It will help students succeed and colleges and universities thrive. It will provide assistance so that students graduate and have the opportunity to earn a degree and be part of a high-wage economy. It will help to ensure an educated and qualified pool of workers is available to meet the needs of New Mexico’s businesses.

Secretary McClure and the New Mexico Higher Education Department conducted student surveys, coordinated strategic planning sessions with the New Mexico Higher Education Advisory Board and the governing boards of New Mexico’s public colleges and universities, participated in the New Mexico First Town Hall Meeting on Higher Education, made public presentations, met with legislators, and held numerous meetings to glean broad input from a variety of stakeholders. On the strength of information from those resources, a strategic plan and vision for higher education in New Mexico was developed.

For more information, contact the New Mexico Higher Education Department at 505-476-6500 or visit www.hed.state.nm.us.