

**New Mexico Association of Community Colleges  
 Quarterly Report – Fall 2006 to Fall 2007  
 Submitted Pursuant to New Mexico Accountability in Government Act**

**Institution: New Mexico State University – Grants  
 Date: April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2008**

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p>Institution's Mission Statement</p>   | <p>The mission of New Mexico State University at Grants is to provide quality instructional and supportive programs at the lowest feasible cost to persons within Cibola County. These programs are provided to eligible persons regardless of age, color, disability, gender, national origin, race, religion, sexual orientation, or veteran status.</p>   |
| <p>Summary of key initiative for semi-annual reporting for the community colleges</p>  | <p>Improve retention rate of first-time in college, full-time degree seeking students</p>  |
| <p>Description of how this initiative links to mission statement</p>   | <p>NMSU at Grants provides low-cost education to residents in an area with a high poverty level. Improving the retention rate of degree-seeking students will increase their chance of eventually receiving a degree and thus raise their income earning potential.</p>  |
| <p>Action Plan: Management initiatives, resource alignment, and other strategies/tools and their potential uses to improve performance</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Offer more developmental courses, and develop new college success courses/programs.</li> <li>2. Foster a faculty/student mentoring program.</li> <li>3. More clearly identify student program intent and educational goals.</li> <li>4. Develop a comprehensive student retention plan.</li> <li>5. Offer student clubs and activities to get students more involved in campus/college life.</li> <li>6. Develop and provide additional scholarship opportunities to students.</li> <li>7. Provide better recruitment and placement opportunities for students who qualify for work-study funds.</li> <li>8. Offer financial aid workshops at area high schools for students and their parents.</li> </ol> |

|   |  |
|---|--|
| Key Performance Measure Statement   | The percentage of first-time in college, full-time degree seeking students enrolled in a given Fall term who persist to the following Fall term to be reported by April 30 <sup>th</sup> annually.                             |
| Data Source(s) used for this report   | Historical Institutional Data  |
| 5 years of historical data  | Fall 05-06 <u>52.94% (27/51)</u><br>Fall 04-05 <u>64.58% (31/48)</u><br>Fall 03-04 <u>58.62% (34/58)</u><br>Fall 02-03 <u>50.79% (32/63)</u><br>Fall 01-02 <u>44.07% (26/59)</u><br><br>Historical Ave <u>53.76% (150/279)</u> |
| Comparative Benchmark:<br><br>Note: The statewide average for NMACC is provided. Your college's ultimate target if below statewide average is to meet the statewide average. If available, also please provide your HED peer group benchmark from IPEDS data for external benchmarking purposes and/or setting your target. | Average of NMACC colleges over the last five years has been 51.3%<br><br>HED Peer Group benchmark (if available):<br><u>53.92%</u>   |
| Fall 06-07 Retention Rate   | <b>49.15% (29/59)</b>  |
| Performance Targets   | Fall 06 to Fall 07 (must match what was reported/approved last year) <u>55%</u><br><br>New Target (Fall 07 retained to Fall 08):<br><u>56.29%</u>  |
| Graphic Display (please provide as attachment using prior report retention rates and targets)   |  |
| Performance Gap Determined in the 2004 April Quarterly Report (performance in 2004 and benchmark or ultimate target difference)   | Performance Gap in 2004 <u>5.63%</u><br><br>Performance Gap in 2008 <u>7.14%</u>   |
| Estimated Time Frame to Close/Exceed Gap determined in the 2004 Quarterly   | Time Frame to Close the gap in 2004<br><u>3 years</u>  |

|  |   |
|--|---|
| Report   | How much more time left to close gap based on original estimate <u>  0 yrs  </u>  |
| Explanation Why Performance Failed to Meet Target if Target was 10% or More Below Standard Set | <p>NMSU-Grants has a very small cohort of first-time, full-time degree seeking students in any given semester. Because of this, a difference of a few students not returning can cause the retention rate to change quite a bit from year to year. It is because of this year to year variability, that this measure was originally reported as a rolling average rather than a retention rate for only one year. If you look at NMSU-Grants historical data, and calculate a three year average containing fall 2004, fall 2005, and fall 2006 cohorts, our average retention rate is 56%, the target set to be reached by 2008.</p>   |
| Corrective Action Plan for Performance that Failed to Meet Target/Action Plan Status           | <p>NMSU-Grants has identified a corrective plan that includes 5 major steps to improve our retention rate.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Student Services personnel that enter new student information into our data base have been instructed to more correctly code new students into degree status if that is the case. This will increase our cohort size and reduce our vulnerability to large year to year fluctuations. In the past students missing some paperwork were coded as non-degree (until their paperwork was complete) when in fact they were degree seeking.</li> <li>2. Student Services advisors have an early intervention program where they call students when instructors inform them of problems with student attendance or grades.</li> <li>3. NMSU-Grants is in the process of hiring a new Campus Student Services Officer (CSSO). One of the first duties of the new CSSO will be to develop a comprehensive</li> </ol> |

|  |  |
|--|--|
|  | <p>student retention plan, which our campus has not had in the past.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="878 268 1390 485">4. NMSU-Grants is implementing a Service Learning component in all classes which we hope will improve retention rates. Students who see relevance in their education are more likely to continue.</li><li data-bbox="878 489 1390 705">5. We have started a learning communities program which links several first year classes. Spring 2008 was the first semester it was initiated and will be expanded in the future.</li></ol> |
|--|--|