

The college has enjoyed high levels of student enrollment, including substantial numbers of minority students. All three departments are involved in outcome assessments of student learning and evaluations of their programs. The college, as a whole has long range plans for 1993-98, which they have updated. There is recognition of the need to have consistency and further coordination of planning efforts across the departments as well as with the university's strategic plan.

h. Branch Campuses

1. **Grants campus** – NMSU – Grants offers a mixture of vocational and technical programs and academic general education transfer courses. As the local economy has adjusted to the loss of federal government-based employment and uranium mining jobs paying high wages, the college has adjusted its offerings. The program established to instruct students on large diesel truck engines and repair is now focused on automotive repair and restoration (and is nearing ASE certification for this program). Similarly, the building trades program is now focused on smaller scale construction issues, home construction and repair. The electronics program has refocused its efforts on computer maintenance and repair.

Despite the curricular changes in the vocational/technical programs, the Grants campus is following national trends where student demand is shifting to increased interest in pre-baccalaureate transfer programs and courses. The college is examining its increase this year in the vocational/ technical student credit hours to determine if additional steps can be taken to create a stable balance between these two curricular emphases.

The Grants campus offers courses at a number of off-campus locations, at times and places convenient for the citizens of its large service area. It should be noted that the faculty identified as one area for further change is ensuring that the course schedule is carefully monitored to offer courses throughout the day and evening and on weekends

to meet student needs. Faculty, students, and community members consistently support the existing curricular offerings while suggesting that additional needs for full baccalaureate programs, especially in education (K-12 teachers), in business, and in health (nursing or other allied health areas). Faculty and community members suggest that the campus look to increasing its innovation in course scheduling, such as offering short courses (8 weeks or less) in the technical areas.

The faculty and staff of the Grants campus are appropriately degreed and trained for the complex mission of a small university branch campus. Many of the staff are cross-trained to assist each other as changing demands occur. They are encouraged to continue their education; many report doing so, finishing up their associate's or bachelor's degrees. Administrative staff appear especially strong in functioning as a team. Over the past five years, several staff have completed advanced degrees or begun doctoral programs with the strong encouragement of the campus director. Similarly, the faculty include several who have completed advanced degrees, two have received their doctorates, while serving as members of the branch campus teaching faculty. All of the faculty and staff serve as excellent ambassadors for the branch campus and its mission and contribute much to the local communities. There is a commitment to maintaining connections with the main campus, with faculty and staff of the Grants campus making regular trips to Las Cruces to serve on departmental, divisional, unit, or university committees. Every week at least one faculty or staff makes the five-hour drive to the main campus.

The morale of the faculty and staff is high despite the recognized difficulties in offering high quality programming with highly-constrained resources. The strong spirit of educational and public service shown by the faculty and staff of NMSU-Grants and the accomplishments of this branch campus in carrying out its mission to the citizens of Cibola County ensure that NMSU-Grants is a strength of New Mexico State University.