

INTRODUCTION

The Council of University Presidents is pleased to present to the Commission on Higher Education (CHE), the Governor, the Legislature and the citizens of New Mexico its third annual Performance Effectiveness Report. Higher education is the key to the economic development of New Mexico and the future progress and well-being of all New Mexicans. By focusing both university and public attention on key indicators of how well our universities are meeting statewide expectations, we are convinced we can make greater progress in creating that better future for New Mexico and all of its people.

New Mexico's six universities have established a consistent and rigorous set of baseline data addressing their performance on a number of common quality indicators. These initial indicators have focused on instruction, because students, their development and their success are the most critical priority for all universities. Each institution strives, above all, to provide access for New Mexico's citizens to an affordable and quality university education and a learning environment that helps students succeed.

For this 2000 report, we have added significantly to the range of information available on the performance of our universities. For a more complete picture of students' success in meeting their educational goals, we have included a summary of degrees conferred by level and discipline as well as data on the placement rates of our graduates, whether employed or continuing their education. The placement data were compiled from surveys conducted by each university of their alumni three years after graduation.

We have expanded our performance measures related to efficient use of resources by including a summary of results for each university of the joint CHE/university flagging process for graduate degree programs with low enrollments and/or low degree production. This statewide review process is a valuable complement to ongoing program review at each university. Both levels of review help ensure that our programs are productive and responsive to the educational needs of our state. The universities look forward to continuing work with the CHE on a parallel process for reviewing low enrollment/low degree production for programs at the undergraduate level. When the undergraduate program review is completed, the results will be added to this performance report.

The largest new data collection effort of the six universities this past year was the administration of two surveys to seek feedback on our academic quality and environment for learning from those most affected—our alumni and our current students. Each university surveyed its alumni (the Class of 1995-96) to collect data on their post-graduation career and educational activities and to seek their assessment of the educational preparation they received as undergraduates. Each university also surveyed 1999-2000 graduating seniors to determine their level of satisfaction with their undergraduate university experience. These surveys, together with the employer satisfaction survey conducted in 1999, complete the first cycle of a commitment by the six universities to obtain regular feedback from appropriate constituencies who can contribute to improving our programs. We plan to survey these constituencies every three years.

This year the 2000 Performance Effectiveness Report contains institution-specific goals developed by each university. These accountability goals are focused on student access, student progress, program quality and efficient use of resources within the instructional mission common to all the universities. In future years the institutions will expand their quality indicators and performance goals to address their responsibilities in mission-specific areas, including research, public service and economic impact. In presenting individual institutional goals, the universities have committed to report annually on their progress in achieving those goals. The initial goals of the six universities are included in a new and separate section of this report.