

# 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 fourth 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 of our public universities 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.

In each year's report, we have added to the range of information available on the performance of our universities. Additional data this year include enrollments for both on- and off-campus instruction, financial aid awarded at each institution by type of aid, bachelor's degree completion rates for our transfer students, and pass rates for each institution's participating students on the professional knowledge/pedagogy section of the teacher licensure assessments. Other information added to provide a more complete picture of university performance includes a new special-focus section on alternative instructional delivery efforts of each institution and institutional narratives under each performance category addressing the institution's response to its performance on measures within the category.

There are several performance measures dependent on a cyclical collection of new data. One of these is the statewide degree program review conducted periodically by the Commission on Higher Education (CHE) in conjunction with the Academic Council for Higher Education (ACHE) and the institutions. The last graduate degree program review was conducted in 1999-2000. The timing of the next study will be determined by the CHE. The six universities this year have agreed on a collective goal of supporting and encouraging the CHE and the ACHE to design and conduct a baccalaureate degree flagging study with the six universities during Academic Year 2001-2002. If this study is conducted on time, the results will be reported in our 2002 PEP report.

The other performance measures providing data on a cyclical basis are those measures dependent on broad-based surveys of our constituencies. These include measures on placement rates of graduates and alumni assessment of institutional quality, both of which are gathered from alumni surveys; students' satisfaction with their undergraduate experiences, which is collected through a survey of graduating seniors; and employers' satisfaction with New Mexico universities' graduates, conducted by an outside party as a statewide survey of New Mexico employers. Each of these surveys is a major undertaking, and the universities have agreed they should be repeated every three years. As a result, the data included in this report for the survey measures are from previous years' surveys. The next employer survey will be conducted for the Council of University Presidents in 2001-02. The next alumni and graduating-senior surveys will be conducted by each university during Academic Year 2002-03. Regular feedback from these constituencies can provide valuable information in reviewing and enhancing our programs.

Last year's Performance Effectiveness Report contained 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 this report the universities are reporting, for the first time, on their progress toward the achievement of these goals. In future years the institutions will expand their quality indicators and performance goals to address their responsibilities in mission-specific areas as well, including research, public service and economic impact.