

NORTHERN New Mexico College



NORTHERN NEW MEXICO COLLEGE BOARD OF REGENTS MINUTES AUGUST 25, 2023

A Regular Meeting of the Board of Regents of northern New Mexico College was held on Friday, August 25, 2023, Via Zoom in the Alumni Hall of Northern New Mexico College, El Rito Campus. Regents Present in person and Viz Zoom: Michael A. Martin, Porter Swentzell, Casandra Batista Dauz, Regent Archuleta and Regent Velarde.

Northern New Mexico College Staff Present: President Hector Balderas, JD, CFE, Ivan Lopez Hurtado, PhD, Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Theresa Storey, Chief Financial Officer/Compliance Officer, Denise Montoya, Chief of Staff and Vice President for Finance, Matthew Baca, General Counsel, Scott Stokes, Chief Information Officer, Rishi Poudal, Institutional Research Assistant, Deborah Trujillo, IT, Sally Martinez, Executive Assistant to the Provost & Vice President for Academic Affairs, Ram Khalsa, Veteran Resource Center Coordinator, Sandy Krolick, Creative Director, Communications & Marketing, Shawn Madrid, Director of Facilities, Evette Abeyta, Budget Director, Courtney Bruch, Director of Assessment and Accreditation, Patrice Trujillo, Health and Safety Manager, Carmella Sanchez, Director, Institutional Research, Tammy Winston, Student Life, Vince Lithgow, Accountant III, Jessica Ortiz, Associate Registrar, Janice Baca, Registrar, and Amy Peña, Executive Office Director.

Others Present: Barbara Campbell, Myra Martinez, Angie Krall, Leo Valdez, Marvy McCauly, Jake Arnold, Abraham Baca, Toby Velasquez, Ann-Marie Draeger, Joseph Bisagna, Anthony Casados, Dolores Gurule, Antonette Serrano, Barbara Medina

I. CALL TO ORDER

Board President Martin called the meeting to order at 9:09AM.

Board President Martin stated we are very privileged to have one of our Branch Community College Board Members with us, Mr. Abraham Baca, Chama Valley Schools, we also have Toby Velasquez, Board Member from Pojoaque and Board President Ms. Antonette Serrano online. Mr. Velasquez thanked President Balderas and stated it was a pleasure to be here. Board President also introduced Deputy Superintendent of Espanola Public Schools, Barbara Martinez and Superintendent from Mesa Vista, Martin McCauley.

II. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Board President Martin stated Executive Session would be tabled for this meeting. Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the agenda as amended.

Regent Archuleta moved to approve the agenda as amended. Second – Regent Batista Dauz. A role call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Batista Dauz – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

III. PUBLIC INPUT

Board President Martin stated he would start with Public Input and everyone would be given three minutes. Board President Martin called on Barbara Campbell.

Barbara Campbell stated they had a meeting the other day and she presented comments gathered by Mark Tull. Ms. Campbell stated the following is being presented from a small ad hoc citizen committee representing the Village of El Rito. This initial outline grew out of recent questions, concerns, and areas where we feel improvement is needed. It is also addresses points, which for the Branch Community College District to succeed as intended, that some preliminary steps must be taken towards reopening the El Rito Campus, including repairs to the buildings, improvements in energy efficiency of buildings, and bringing building up to current building code requirements, some of which may fall under maintenance/repairs, but some of which will require capital improvements to the El Rito Campus.

1. Communications

- A. Past communications from Northern New Mexico College (NNMC) in the form of press releases for the mill levy vote and may other issues, up to and including the dates and place of the Board of Regents (Board) meetings, meeting agenda topics, and other topics pertinent to the Branch Community College District and the El Rito Campus have been inadequate. We ask for significant improvements to help keep the people living in the area of the Branch Community College District (district) and those impacted by the reopening of the El Rito Campus better informed going forward. We also request that this information is timely and accurate.
- B. The President of NNMC, as the main public representative for NNMC must ensure that this communication is timely, effective, and accurate.
- C. That the President, along with the Board of Regents, develop within their annual Strategic Plan (plan), as it relates to the above, actionable goals that include how these goals will be obtained and an estimate of any financial costs for achieving these goals. We further feel that this plan be part of what is communicated to the people, as is described in 1.A., above.
- D. That a Citizen Advisory Committee be established with a minimum of three and a maximum of four representatives from the people described in 1.A., above. This committee will help to maintain lines of communication between the people of the district, the NNMC President, and the Board, including helping to make the NNMC President and the Board aware of the concerns and questions from people within the district.

2. Building Improvements

- A. We believe in the adage, "Build it and they will come" and feel this is a view that needs to be adopted by the NNMC President and the Board regarding the reopening of the El Rito Campus.
- B. As the primary public representative of the NNMC El Rito Campus and the district, the NNMC President must make clear to the New Mexico Legislature (Legislature) that, due to a "Catch 22" scenario, that the intentions of the Legislature in establishing the district will fail and they require a specified population of students prior to

committing any funds for the Capital Improvements at the El Rito Campus. That the doors must first "be opened" in order for the students to enroll in programs that this campus is capable of offering.

- C. That the President, his staff, and the Board also need to explore items such as the Inflation Reduction Act (potential tax credits for post-project reimbursements towards improved energy efficiency, up to 40% of the cost of the project; major dollars towards items such as electric vehicle fleet and charging stations; potential reimbursements towards improved building weatherization, as well as heating and cooling systems) and various other Federal and State funding sources, including grants and loans.
- D. We understand that repairs/improvements required for reopening may need to be done in steps, perhaps starting with one of the dormitories.
- E. Once steps towards reopening portions of the El Rito Campus are well underway or completed, then, in our opinion, it is time to look into hiring appropriate staff for marketing the district, course offerings at the El Rito Campus, and recruitment of students to satisfy the so-called Legislature's requirement for a specified student population to justify funding for Capital Improvements. Ms. Campbell stated on many occasions prior to the campus closing down, we had 100-200 students and they would like to come back to that and can't do that until things are repaired and functioning.

Board President Martin called on Ms. Angie Krall, El Rito Ranger District.

Ms. Krall stated she is there to thank the College so much for hosting them this year through the fires. She cannot overstate what a wonderful location this is for that operation. It is safe, shady, convenient to where we usually have our fires. She cannot thank everyone enough to be able take over the state and hopefully we leave it better than we found it. Ms. Krall stated she is also working with President Balderas, they are desperate for people, they cannot find people to fill their positions, their entry level positions with fire and range and wildlife and recreation and their admin. positions. They have to find a better pipeline for these folks and families want to live in these smaller villages and (inaudible). We have that opportunity we just really have to draw the line. Ms. Krall thanked the Board of Regents for all the work they do and is excited to get momentum going again with the college.

Jake Arnold stated he would like to follow up on what Ms. Campbell stated. The meeting she was referring to was actually members of La Venseslao Jaramillo who have been following events at the college since about 2008. Mr. Arnold stated all of them are concerned with the college since the closing of this campus was underway. They are extremely appreciative and thankful of the hard work of the members of the board of regents and staff who have been working on these issues and have been listening to them. He wants everyone to understand they are appreciative of the time the Board of Regents have dedicated to these projects over the years. As far, the real concern Ms. Campbell mentioned is getting this campus up and running, they realize to do that, there may have to be incremental steps building by building to get everything ready, the climate control issues, repairs to any damages. Understand, they would like to get an estimate, bottom line figure, what it would take to bring this campus up and running before a previous Board of Regents closed it down. Until then, the branch community college can utilize the Espanola campus and there can be a variety of other programs that can occur at this campus. They saw it going on in the past when there were conferences, they were using the dorms and utilizing the facilities. When this campus was up and running there were students all over the place, in the dorms, instruction was going on and this was a vital center of the community. Once again, they are appreciative of the hard work everyone is doing and thank everyone.

Board President Martin called on Mr. Bruce Smith.

Bruce Smith stated he is a retired faculty member from NNMC of over 28 years serving as a faculty member. He lives in El Rito and has serviced on a committee at the request of prior Board of Regents in 2008-09 about how to develop this campus and there have been four presidents and quite a big change in board members and we are still closed. This idea of build it and they will come is substantiated by many programs that have occurred in the past. They are aware the Branch Community College will not revitalize this campus it will be a part of it. Many programs occurred. This campus is not very energy efficient. There is not much energy required from April 15-October 30. Many programs can occur and Angie Krall stated people can actually put-up tents in the yard. We don't have to have every dorm room available. It would be good to have a café and some accommodations for overnight for some people. President Balderas mentioned a plan to try to open Cutting Hall and the Restaurant to start. Programs could be offered in good weather and then begin to slowly incrementally try to find funds to improve heating systems and things like that so the campus could grow. Mr. Smith doesn't think it would not take a lot of hard money; it would be soft money. Time is past due. He wishes grants would have been put out a year ago. He would like to refer to something he received in a building a year ago – pages 98-114 of the strategic plan for the College that was prepared by Dr. Medina, it was a strategic plan. It was presented to the Board of Regents on June 23, 2022. Board President Martin stated it was presented and approved. Goal one is technical trades and facilities. El Rito will continue the rehabilitation of technical trades and facilities to provide a safe and working environment. These goals are wonderful and they were interviewed. He would like to ask, he's not going to ask, he encourages the current Board members to support, review and read this document. He knows a strategic plan is in process by the current President and including this strategic plan. He would like a community group to participate and would encourage cooperation.

Board President Martin called on Mr. John Ussery.

John Ussery stated he would like to thank the Board for being here. When he first came in 1975 to El Rito, he worked NSF grant and working on fuel crisis. The place where the most renewable energy work was going on was this campus. (inaudible) He ended up moving to El Rito because this is where it was at. Trades were taking place here and the skills were being provided. (inaudible) He wishes we were back at that level again. He has seen it go through many changes in the hospice program, you couldn't find (inaudible) He has been attending webinars about inflation reduction act is being spent and (inaudible.). This is the right time to be asking with money. It is not the time to be shy. He has a couple pet peeves, we don't provide the opportunities to make a living to live here, we don't have the skill set. He is glad to see what Frank has been doing with the trades and hopes to aid the transition to the electric vehicles. There is an EV Charger on campus. The whole campus is on solar power. The clinic and the school and senior center and college is all cluster is all powered. We are still leading in the area but where are the students learning this and getting hands on. It is easy to train a painter to do a good job. We have a lot of plumbing problems here. When he was working (inaudible). If we had students, the toilet would be ok for a couple of days. It is a whole skill of underground mapping and plumbing programs. This is a great place to learn how to do things and there is so much to be done and to employ our students. We could find plenty of work. Let's reconnect it. President Balderas complained there were no LED lights on campus. We have them and need to turn them on. There are a lot of things that could be happening here. The opportunities enormous and the funds are enormous. Let's connect the dots and get going and make sure the future is important to families here. Mr. Ussery stated we had a forestry program

here. (inaudible). We need warm bodies and school and skill. There is actual work on training for wildfire. Let's get with it.

Board President Martin thanked Mr. Ussery and introduced Mr. Leo Valdez who is a new member to the Foundation Board and the President of the Alumni Association.

Mr. Valdez stated he has had several hats with respect to El Rito. Mr. Valdez graduated in 1966. He wanted to echo a lot about this campus way back then, it was a vibrant campus. All the trades here, a lot of people have made good careers because of that. As far as the 2019 referendum, Mr. Valdez was part of that together with the Alumni. He is the President of the Alumni in El Rito and they saw a need to bring those programs back. Unfortunately, they did go away and with respect to all the job opportunities in Los Alamos we thought bringing those programs back we could have good earning jobs for students from Mesa Vista, Chama, Espanola, Pojoaque and other surrounding areas. That Mill Levy passed overwhelmingly. Mr. Valdez stated he knows there are two issues here that are big. One is this campus; it has its challenges and that is going to take time. We are not going to turn on the lights and all of the sudden do away with propane and a lot of other issues. The other one is getting programs going. Mr. Valdez thinks getting the programs going is more of a priority than getting the campus up to date. That is going to take time and it is going to take a lot of money. Mr. Valdez stated he does agree with some of the comments that we should start dealing with some buildings and develop those so we could have more programs. He knows one particular student that graduated from here and they were talking. He asked if they were taking courses in Espanola and she said no, she was doing them online. It doesn't matter where they are sitting today, they have that opportunity. He knows we do not have students in physical here and he knows we have the labs here and this is important. Mr. Valdez stated what he is saying is we need to give the college the opportunity to develop not only the campus but the programs and then other challenges. After the referendum we had COVID and it stopped a lot of things. With the Superintendent from Mesa Vista, we are going to have a bond election this November, we are replacing (inaudible), plumbing and other matters. Mr. Valdez would ask that folks can support that referendum. It is important to our area. It all comes together between this campus and the Mesa Vista Campus.

Board President Martin asked if we have anyone online. Board President Martin introduced Superintendent Anthony Casados.

Anthony Casados stated he was having issues hearing people presenting earlier. At this time, he does not have questions but maybe down the line.

Board President Martin introduced Ms. Sondra Adams, Superintendent of Pojoaque. Superintendent Adams stated she appreciates everything said, her students rely on these programs and hope they are moved forward.

Board President Martin thanked everyone for their comments and asked President Balderas to consider them going forward. President Balderas stated he would.

IV. COMMENTS FROM THE BOARD

A. Board of Regents Subcommittee Reports

1. Housing Committee

Regent Archuleta stated he will meet with Mr. Valdez this week and received an invitation to go to Farmington with President Balderas to San Juan College and they will give ideas of what went well and what didn't work well. They will be headed to Farmington and hoping to move forward very soon.

2. Audit, Finance, Facilities Committee

Regent Velarde stated they had a good presentation and will go over those topics later in the meeting.

3. Academic and Student Affairs Committee

Regent Swentzell stated the subcommittee of Academic/Student Affairs did meet and had a good discussion about some upcoming things and of course some of those things will be discussed later on as well. The man thing is, and Dr. Lopez could correct him if he misstates anything. There is an important request that is not for Board action but is good for the Board to know about which has to do with location submissions to the HLC. There is a request to HLC to increase the number of locations of the college in specific, to recognize Espanola High School as a location as well and this allows the school to after this is approved to have as many locations as possible to serve students. This is especially important in relation to the dual credit courses which is related to come of the comments made today and Dr. Lopez can rectify anything Regent Swentzell stated.

4. Board Assessment Committee – Informational

Matt Baca stated they were able to gather digitally but they have established an effective tool through AGB and they have a tool they will help put together a survey so the board can self-assess. The next conversation will be getting into the nitty gritty of setting up the process. They will have something to approve at the next meeting.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the minutes of the July 28, 2023 meeting.

Regent Batista Daus entertained a motion to approve the minutes of July 28, 2023. Second – Regent Archuleta. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – yes, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Batista Daus – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

VI. PRESIDENT'S REPORT AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. Celebrate Northern

President Balderas stated he would like to welcome everyone. Today is very exciting. He thinks it represents a significant improvement. We have invited our Branch Community College Board Members both online and in person. We are trying to dramatically improve the shared responsibility of fighting for our students. You will see significant participation from that leadership and he would like to recognize them because they are leaders that are from the community and are volunteers. President Balderas would like to thank all the members in attendance. Because President Balderas stated a signature of his administration because he was raised in a town of 300 people, you actually have a leader who truly believes in communication, shared governance and shared responsibility. President Balderas would like to recognize staff and leaders and update the community with some amazing things that have occurred in months, not years. It is all relative to student excellence. He would like to show a couple of examples. It is not just on this campus but both campuses. The first one, announcing the American Cuisine Course. President Balderas stated within six months we have recognized a celebrity chef.

President Balderas stated he is very excited about our new American Regional Cuisine Class. Celebrity Executive Chef Fernando Ruiz, who you might recognize as a three-time Food Network champion on "Guy's Grocery Games," "Chopped" and the "Beat Bobby Flay" show, is serving on the advisory committee for our new Hospitality and Restaurant Management curriculum and will be a guest lecturer for the class taught by Chef Simon Vaz if his schedule permits. We'll also be working with our collaborators, the Entrepreneurial Institute of Northern NM, to create mentorship, apprenticeship and internship opportunities. Class members will be part of the team for the new Cultura Café @ Northern. This is one of many partnerships we are developing to support student success at Northern. He is excited about this because it sets a high standard and the possibility of national recognition. Thank you to the facilities staff and the union plumbers and pipefitters for their assistance with the Café. We now have two kitchens in working order and we want to build this model of excellence in El Rito. We are shooting big and this is phenomenal

President Balderas stated were excited to have 160 students at our New Student Orientation. The students toured campus, made new friends, enjoyed pizza & prizes and learned more about all the resources available to them. They were very engaged and should be a great addition to our Northern family. This was part of a successful Fall Convocation, where we also had the opportunity to come together and recognize many staff and faculty for their outstanding contributions to the College. Among them, we recognized Alfredo Lima in the business office as Staff of the Year; as well as awarding the Eagle Award to the Title V program for their outstanding work.

President Balderas was very pleased to announce our new articulation agreements with Mesalands Community College, which will provide pathways for Mesalands students who graduate with relevant associate's degrees to pursue bachelor's degrees in Business or Electromechanical Engineering here at Northern. We have also begun conversations with Western Colorado University about opportunities to collaborate with them to address critical shortages of Career Technical Education graduates. Partnerships like these highlight the importance of small and rural colleges and universities working together to develop rural entrepreneurship. Things can happen and we can just talk and work together and President Balderas believes in that model

We recently hosted the El Rito Grito, which was a great opportunity for community building in El Rito. We came together over food and conversation to reaffirm and share in the importance of the El Rito campus to the community. We also recognized many community leaders who have made significant contributions to the revitalization of the El Rito campus. The Northern community is tremendously grateful to these leaders for their continued support of the College.

The Student Senate held a Welcome Back BBQ last week. I want to thank all the student senate for organizing this and all the volunteers who helped with the setup, cooking, serving and cleanup. It was great to see our community coming together.

Congratulations to Natalia Tealer and Guillmer Germino for being chosen for the inaugural NextGen Summer 2023 STEM Internship program. They interned with J.G. Management Systems, Inc., in Albuquerque, N.M., working on Information Engineering Technology projects. You can read their story on our homepage. I also want to congratulate Milnor Branch and Dominic Montaño, our most recent graduates from Northern's N3B Nuclear Operator Apprenticeship Program, Longenecker & Associates Scholarship recipients Pablo Montoya, Miranda Salazar and Paul Thibodeaux and Catie Moya, the recipient of the 2023 Del Norte Credit Union Venessa Valerio Memorial Scholarship.

One of our staff members, Alejandra Jaramillo, has been accepted into the New Mexico Center for Language Access program and received a full scholarship. Ale earned a Bachelor of Arts Integrated Studies with an emphasis in Crime and Justice Studies here at Northern. Once she completes the Language Access program and passes the Court Interpreter Certification Examinations, she will be added to the New Mexico registry of Justice System Interpreters and be eligible to work as a court interpreter.

The New Mexico Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) hosted a Listening & Learning Tour on our campus August 4. Northern's own Chief of Staff Denise Montoya and Julianna Martinez-Barbee, Director of the Española Small Business Development Center, were two of the presenters. New Mexico State Senator Leo Jaramillo and Representative Joseph Sanchez also spoke, and Española City Councilor Manny Martinez shared a song in honor of his late partner Verna Trujillo, who was Accessibility Coordinator at Northern.

Northern hosted the LANL Foundation's ISEC Program Science Teachers' Institute 2023 last month, as we've done for several years now. There were 85 kindergarten through sixth grade teachers on campus doing the hands-on science they'll be teaching their students. Our thanks to the LANL Foundation for also providing lunch to our staff for the four days they were here.

B. CUP/NMICC Report

President Balderas stated the most important update is regarding CHESS.

The CHESS Board has voted to move forward with an approach for implementing the Workday Student project plan to allow all six CHESS colleges to move forward together on the same timeline. The board moved to approve *“moving to a combined implementation of Workday Student for all six CHESS colleges, to be completed in 2027, with CHESS directed to work with the SIS Stakeholder Committee and the Executive Steering Committee to negotiate final changes to the Workday Implementation Services Scope of Work, and to commit that CHESS and the colleges will*

work to amend the project plan in a manner that allows for full development of a transformational student experience.”

The goal is to proceed comprehensively, thoughtfully, and in a manner that is most cost effective and allows CHES colleges to minimize risk. This approach will allow for the opportunity to include the input of all six of the member institutions in this groundbreaking work to create a transformational Student platform.

The CHES Project Management Office has already begun working to develop a new timeline, and we expect adjustments to be rolled out soon. For now, the Discovery sessions for SIS 1 that have already been adjusted to accommodate Fall enrollment deadlines will be re-evaluated as we develop an enhanced opportunity to dive deeper into our institutional impacts, desired integrations, and increased emphasis on a transformational student experience.

Outside of CHES, and considering this adjustment to the project timeline, we are evaluating the need for additional funding and resource. This delay, although needed, will require us to maintain our legacy system for much longer than anticipated.

C. NNMC Foundation

1. FY24 Northern Scholarship Campaign

Goal: \$60,000

Donations received to date: \$43,825.00

Pending Pledges:

- a. Arizona Educational Foundation - \$2000
 - i. LANL Community Partnerships - \$5000
- b. Community donations - \$10,000

2. Jemez House \$300,000 Donation Celebration

The August 17, 2023 celebration of the Jemez House \$300,000 donation was a success attended by 12 Jemez House volunteers, NNMC Board of Regents and Foundation Board members, staff, faculty and students. President Balderas and Mr. Lio Castro, Jemez House Board Member, spoke to the historical significance of the Jemez House to the college and the entire regional communities, followed by unveiling an elegant acknowledgement plaque in the Rotunda. This generous donation was designated for the NNMC Foundation General Endowed Scholarship Fund. Press Release forthcoming.

D. Introduction of Staff and Faculty

President Balderas introduced the following:

**Brandon Alire
Camp Recruiter**

Our new College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP) Recruiter is Brandon Alire from Vallecitos, New Mexico. Brandon himself went through our CAMP program. He earned an AA in Substance Abuse from Northern this spring and is now pursuing his BA in psychology. He was employed as a custodian here, but resigned to attend an internship at the University of Texas in El Paso this

summer, where he presented his research surrounding alcohol use. He sees joining CAMP as a recruiter as a way to give back and help others take advantage of the support CAMP offers for achieving academic goals.

Daniel Falsafi

Assistant Professor

Daniel Fasafi is a new Assistant Professor who will be teaching Computer Programming and Web Engineering in the Department of Engineering & Technology. He is from West Virginia and received his bachelor's in Computer Engineering from the West Virginia University Institute of Technology and a master's in Data Science from Colorado Technical University. His last position was Data Technologist with SparkSoft Corp in Fairmont, WV.

Alberto Mares

Director of Early Childhood Programs and Assistant Professor

Alberto Mares is our new Director of Early Childhood Programs and an Assistant Professor with the Department of Teacher Education. He has taught preschool and special education and served as coach and consultant to school programs across New Mexico, as well as teaching courses at UNM and CNM. He is a graduate from New Mexico State University and Eastern New Mexico University and recently completed his master's degree from University of the Southwest in clinical mental health counseling with the hope of teaching educators about trauma-informed practices and the importance of social-emotional development. Alberto wants to work with NNMC and other agencies to expand quality childcare, play therapy, and other educational services to children and families in Española and the surrounding areas.

Aaliyah Miera

Recruiter

Aaliyah Miera is excited to be starting her new role as a Recruitment Specialist. Her main goal is to motivate prospective students starting their journey in higher education and provide those students with resources that will help them through the process. Aaliyah is a current student at NNMC, pursuing her bachelor's degree in business administration. She plans on going for her master's degree in digital marketing. She is from Española, New Mexico.

Stephanie Segura

Financial Aid Officer I

Stephanie Segura is our new Financial Aid Officer. Stephanie graduated from Adams State University with a Bachelor's in Sociology with an emphasis in Criminology, Psychology and minor in History. Her last position was with Taos County Economic Development Corporation, where she was responsible for helping farmers and ranchers explore their options for creating a small business or looking for Federal Grants to improve their lands. Stephanie is also involved in Epilepsy and SUDEP Awareness, and is a big supporter of Chelsea Hutchinson's Foundation, which helps individuals obtain Service Dogs and Seizure Monitoring Systems.

Martin Shupla

Director of Library Services

Our new Library Director, Martin Shupla, grew up in Santa Clara, but comes to us from Pasadena, TX. During his tenure as Director, the Pasadena Public Library renovated its locations, dropped late fees, added a Maker Space, and increased checkouts by over 100,000 from their pre-Covid numbers. Mr. Shupla has experience working for municipal and county libraries in Texas for the last 16 years. Martin attended Northern New Mexico Community College before graduating from

New Mexico Highland University. His goal is to make our library an indispensable asset to the community.

Angel Smothers

Instructor

Angel Smothers is a new instructor in our Nursing & Health Sciences Department who lives in her home state of West Virginia. She completed a nursing assistant program while still in high school and was providing care for elderly by the time she graduated. Her RN and BSN degrees are both from Bluefield State College, in Bluefield, WV. She has a master's degree and a doctorate of nursing practice degree from West Virginia University. Angel's nursing practice has been primarily in community settings. She is nationally board certified as a family nurse practitioner and board certified in hospice and palliative nursing, evidence-based practice through the FULD Institute, and as a certified nurse educator.

Tammy Winston

Student Life Coordinator

Tammy Winston has joined Northern as our Student Life Coordinator. She has more than four years' experience in higher education, primarily in student facing roles, including student life and academic recruiting. She came to us from Dallas College, where she supported students through their academic journey from the recruiting stage, through the enrollment process and to a successful graduation. Her accomplishments include a successful recruiting campaign that netted a 5% return rate, or about 950 students that committed to continuing their academic endeavors post covid. She is also a skilled at programming student events, high school tours, new student orientations and cultural events.

Steph Johnson Zawadzki, Msc, ABD

Assistant Professor

Steph Johnson is a new Assistant Professor in our Arts & Humanities Department, where she'll be teaching Psychology and Interdisciplinary/Humanities courses. She is in the final stages of obtaining her PhD, working with energy system engineers in the Netherlands to help design more sustainable energy systems that can better account for how everyday people think about and use energy. While living in the Netherlands, she won first place in a national competition for public speaking and went on to judge multiple pitch competitions. She has worked as a data analyst in Silicon Valley, a high school marching band instructor, and a crochet artist.

E. College Updates

President Balderas presented the following:

The purpose of this report is to highlight some of the work that we are undertaking that aligns with the Soaring to New Heights Strategic Plan 2028 strategic pillars (SP).

SP1: Transform the student experience and become partners in their dreams.

Hosted the Celebration and Plaque Unveiling to honor the Jemez House, Inc. for their generous close to \$300K donation toward student scholarships.

Exploring opportunities with the film industry for development of programs and student career experience opportunities

Student enrollment, although we have two more weeks before Census Date, is showing a growth of 7% in student credit hours (FTE) and flat enrollment for headcounts.

SP2: Commit to academic excellence.

Together, we kicked off a successful new academic year convocation for faculty and staff providing college updates and training sessions focused on academic and organization excellence.

NNMC participated in the entrance meeting for our Complete College Accelerator Project, an initiative funded by the Gates Foundation. We are part of a selected cohort of eight NM Higher Ed institutions that will deploy research-based student success strategies, through this project.

SP3: Commit to organization excellence.

Participated in the New Mexico Department of Higher Education capital outlay hearing requesting a \$12M capital outlay for FY2025 (\$7M for classroom and space renovation for workforce development and \$5M for campus wide green energy modernization).

Submitted a \$1.5M grant request to the Governor's office Casa Connection grant for renovating El Rito housing options.

The audit entrance conference was held on Tuesday August 15th for the College and Foundation. Kubiak Melton and Associates (KMA) audit team was on site the majority of the week to begin the planning of the annual engagement.

SP4: Strengthen strategic College partnerships that enhance student success.

Participated in the New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions (NMDWS): Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) Combined State Plan for 2024 – 2028. This plan serves as the NMDWS's guide for workforce development across the state.

Participated in the Small Business Development Center Women's Commission event held on campus.

A Memorandum of Understanding for collaboration has been signed between NNMC and the Carpenters' union. This partnership will allow NNMC to access curriculum and strengthen our CTE programming and job pipeline initiatives

NNMC began to explore a partnership with WNMU and with the National Student Exchange program to explore opportunities that will enable the participation of NNMC's students in domestic and international programs.

VII. FACULTY SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT

Scott Braley, Faculty Senate President stated they haven't had their first meeting of the year so the report is minimal. They will be electing a new Vice President and that is good. They will be having their first meeting next week. They will be talking about the Strategic Plan among other things. He will have more next month.

VIII. STUDENT SENATE PRESIDENT REPORT

Ms. Gurule stated she has five items for today:

Ms. Gurule would like to thank President Balderas for continuing to strive for open communication and for maintaining an active conversation with the Student Senate regarding any ideas, issues, concerns, and celebrating successes. I felt privileged to have met with President Balderas and his Executive Team as we discussed one of the items that the Student Senate brought to the president in the Spring and we will continue to keep an open line of communication with the president and his team. The Student Senate extends our sincerest gratitude to President Balderas and his Executive team for their commitment to the students of Northern New Mexico College. Welcome Tammy Winston: We are thrilled to have Tammy Winston join us as our new Student Life Coordinator. Tammy hit the ground running and has already been actively engaging with the Student Senate as well as supporting us as we begin to navigate the new semester. Northern made a great choice in their selection of the new coordinator, Tammy brings such a positive personality and bright smile to Student Life! Student Senate Hosted Barbeque: The Student Senate is happy to report that the back-to-school barbeque was well attended on August 17, 2023. We ran out of burgers, brats, and drinks within the first hour of beginning to serve students. Though many had to wait as we adjusted and kept going, our new Student Life Coordinator remained ready to navigate the nearly doubling in attendance from last year's Welcome Back and cheerfully said "this is a good problem to have!" as she headed out to purchase more burgers and hot dogs. The Student Senate would also like to extend our thanks to the Facilities Department for helping us set up and tear down, and also to Melvin Moquino for always being happy to help. We would also like to thank Solomon from Facilities and Mr. Sedillo for volunteering to be the grill masters! We are hoping that the great turnout for our very first campus event is an indication that student presence on campus is beginning to increase as well. Tammy Winston reported that we served around 200 people, with 84% rating the event as awesome via our survey. We would like to thank students, faculty, and staff for their patience as we worked on getting everyone fed, and we hope a good time was had by all! Swearing in Ceremony and First Meeting: The Student Senate will be holding a Swearing in Ceremony on Friday, September 1, 2023 at 3:30 p.m. at the Event Center. Our first official meeting will follow in the conference room in the Student Activities Center. We currently have a total of four elected officers, two elected senators, and four students who have expressed interest in also becoming senators. Vice-President Vacancy: It is with a heavy heart that I report the resignation of our elected Vice-President Ramkrishan Khalsa. Ram has shared that he was recently notified of an acceptance to an internship that he was excited to begin. Ram has made the difficult decision to resign his position on the Student Senate, not only because he did not

IX. STAFF REPORTS

A. Vice President for Finance & Administration

1. Memorandum of Understanding – NFEE Adjunct Faculty Union

Dr. Montoya stated there are four items on the agenda. The first will be presented by Dr. Montoya, the next two by Ms. Storey and the last by Mr. Stokes.

Dr. Montoya stated at present enrollment caps on specific courses, full-time faculty vacancies, and the depth and breadth of the nursing curriculum are hindering potential growth of the Nursing Program. To increase student enrollment, NNMC needs to hire adjunct faculty to teach nursing courses. Recruiting nursing tenured faculty and instructors that are qualified has been a challenge due to the inability to competitively pay qualified candidates. With the additional RPSP funds, NNMC will pilot an initiative for the academic year 2023- 2024 to address the pay disparity. If approved, Adjunct Faculty in the Nursing Program will receive a stipend of 20% per credit hour for lab/clinical courses and 30% for theory courses. This initiative will be assessed and evaluated with no commitment to extend beyond the proposed academic year. The Northern Federation of Educational Employees (NFEE), AFT-NM, AFL-CIO Adjunct Faculty Union (Union) has agreed to the Memorandum of Understanding (attached).

Dr. Montoya stated in 2023 there were almost 7,000 job openings statewide for nurses according to the New Mexico Workforce Solution. Nationally 55% of nurses right now are over the age of 50. Over 1M nurses will leave the workforce by 2030 and that is mostly due to retirements. Less than 15% of the nurses in the United States are under the age of 30. According to Zippia Research in 2022 New Mexico had the biggest hospital shortage in the entire US. Hospitals in New Mexico continue to have shortages. The MOU presented can be part of the statewide goals to cultivate the next generation of nurses to fill these gaps, even nationally. We have a lot of difficulty hiring nurses, hiring tenured nurses and hiring instructors because we cannot competitively pay these. With the Board's approval we can help close the gap of nurses, we can not only maintain our program but expand it with more faculty. Dr. Montoya stood for questions.

Board President Martin asked if there were questions for Dr. Montoya. Regent Velarde had no questions. Regent Archuleta had no questions; he thinks it is a good idea. Regent Batista Dauz – no questions.

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the Vice President's Recommendation

Regent Archuleta moved to approve. Regent Velarde – second. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – not present, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Batista Dauz – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

2. NNMC Branch Community College Financial Update – Informational

Ms. Storey presented the financial update (attached). Ms. Storey would also like to recognize Ms. Evette Abeyta, Budget Director and Mr. Vince Lithgow, Accountant, III. The community requested a breakdown of expenditures.

Board President Martin asked if there were questions from the Board.

Board Member Velasquez stated he appreciates this and as the financials continue to be evaluated, they would like to make it known that Pojoaque is interested in working with NNMC and is interested in maximizing the use of onsite campus and to have these courses on campus and it will increase the ability to maintain schedule and decrease travel on campus. There are some unique leverages going forward to perpetuate these programs and to get more kids working in these programs that are on district campuses and leverage funding. Quick comment from Pojoaque Valley School District and that potential to partner in the future.

Board President Serrano - no comment.

President Balderas stated this is exciting and the level information you can see past opportunities and you can move forward. He is thankful of the community and the Branch campus Board member leadership. WE can now start to work together to work out plans. We have good challenges ahead and it is exciting to the students.

Board President Martin asked if Deputy Superintendent Martinez.

Deputy Superintendent Martinez stated she would like to thank Northern they greatly appreciate it; we have expanded trades and phlebotomy. We would like to support Northern in further expanding the trades. We see shortages in education as well as nurses. They see the same issues and anything they can do supporting those programs and to create opportunities for students staying in the area.

Superintendent MaCaully stated as a Superintendent in Northern New Mexico he has seen the work that Northern has done. He has three daughters, 2 of which are graduates of NNMC, both have associate degrees. He sees the benefits to revitalizing this campus and the revitalization of construction trades within the local region. He looks forward to working with President Balderas to expand this imitative and he has seen first-hand benefits of Northern from his children and as Superintendent working with Northern.

Mr. Valdez stated he saw the fund balance and it is healthy and it gives us an opportunity to meet some of our challenges.

Mr. Arnold asked, they would like to know how many students are there, high school students in the dual credit program that are specifically related to the Branch Community College. You may have some dual credit students that are not coming under the Branch Community College. They would like a little more information about those numbers and what the specific curriculum is being offered to those dual credit students.

Dr. Lopez stated we do have that information and can make it available at the next meeting.

Board President Martin stated that and the cost of improvement. We will work on those two things.

3. RPSPs

Ms. Storey presented the RPSPs to the Board of Regents (attached).

The NMHED issued guidance to all Higher Education Institutions regarding the preparation of RPSP funding requests for Fiscal Year 2025. As such, NNMC is permitted to submit up to three new requests for consideration. The following submissions have been prepared for Board of Regents approval.

- Teacher Pipeline Services - \$416,000.00
- Nursing Expansion - \$947,000.00
- Athletics - \$950,000.00
- Cyber Security - \$958,378.00
- Student Success and Achievement Shop - "One Stop Shop" - \$927,600.00
- Native American Student Center - \$396,250.00
- Sostenga-Operations of Small Demo Farm - \$300,000.00
- Center of Career and Technical Education - \$998,250.00
- Technical and Vocational Courses-Academic Program Evaluation - \$45,600.00
- Center of the Arts - \$200,000.00
- Veteran's Resource Center - \$121,200.00
- Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math - \$125,200.00
- Moving Arts-Youth in Arts Cultural Engagement - \$50,000.00

Board President Martin asked if there were any questions.

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the RPSPs as presented.

Regent Archuleta moved to approve the RPSPs as presented. Second – Regent Batista Dauz. **A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – not present, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Batista Dauz – yes. Motion passed unanimously.**

5. IT Equipment Disposal

Scott Stokes presented the IT Equipment Disposal (attached).

Board President Martin asked if there were any questions. No questions.

Board President Martin entertained a motion to approve the IT Equipment Disposal.

Regent Velarde moved to approve IT Equipment Disposal. Second – Regent Batista Dauz. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – not present, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Batista Dauz – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

X. DEEP DIVE

A. Small Business Development Center – Julianna Barbee

Ms. Barbee presented the SBDC to the Board of Regents (attached).

XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

- (1) Limited personnel matters related to the hiring, promotion, demotion, dismissal, assignment, resignation, or investigation or consideration of complaints or charges against an employee;
 - a. Termination of Probationary Employee - NNMC ID 100623
- (2) Bargaining strategy preliminary to collective bargaining
 - a. No items
- (3) Threatened or pending litigation subject to the attorney-client privilege in which the College may be a participant; and
 - a. No items
- (4) Real estate acquisition or disposal.
 - a. No items

XII. POSSIBLE ACTION ON EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

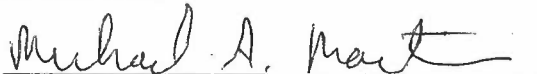
XIV. ADJOURNMENT

Board President Martin entertained a motion to adjourn.

Regent Archuleta moved to adjourn. Second – Regent Batista Daux. A roll call vote was taken. Board President Martin – yes, Regent Velarde – yes, Regent Swentzell – not present, Regent Archuleta – yes, Regent Batista Daux – yes. Motion passed unanimously.

The Board of Regents adjourned at 11:23AM.

APPROVED:



Michael A. Martin, Board President



Erica Rita Velarde (Oct 4, 2023 16:14 PDT)

Erica Velarde, Vice President







1802_001

Final Audit Report

2023-10-04

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