



State of New Mexico

Susana Martinez
Governor

EXECUTIVE ORDER 2016-037

“ROUTE TO 66” AS NEW MEXICO’S HIGHER EDUCATION ATTAINMENT GOAL

WHEREAS, educational attainment is correlated with increased employment, higher earnings, lower crime rates, and better health outcomes; and

WHEREAS, the economic future of New Mexico depends on training, attracting, and retaining workers with professional, technical, and critical thinking skills; and

WHEREAS, research shows that the majority of jobs gained across the nation since the official end of the Great Recession have gone to individuals with at least some postsecondary education; and

WHEREAS, recent data indicate that 34.6% of New Mexicans between the ages of 25 and 64 hold an associate’s degree or higher credential and 9% hold a postsecondary credential; and

WHEREAS, a focus on reducing socioeconomic and ethnic educational attainment gaps will improve economic opportunities and outcomes for future generations in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, research has estimated that 65% of jobs available in the U.S. will require some postsecondary education by 2020.

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Susana Martinez, Governor of the State of New Mexico, by the authority vested in me by the Constitution and the Laws of the State of New Mexico, do hereby declare that New Mexico adopts the goal that 66% of all New Mexicans between the ages of 25 and 64 have some postsecondary education or training beyond high school by the year 2030;

I DIRECT New Mexico’s public higher education institutions and Higher Education Department to develop long-term goals and the state’s first ever strategic plan that focus on increasing statewide educational attainment. I hereby order the creation of a Higher Education Strategic Planning Committee to set New Mexico on the “Route to 66” to increased educational attainment.

The purpose of this Committee, chaired by the Cabinet Secretary of the New Mexico Higher Education Department, is to develop a strategic plan for higher education in New Mexico focused on increasing educational achievement and attainment by the end of September 2017. The Committee shall consist of members appointed by the chair representing presidents, provosts, regents, trustees, faculty, students, business leaders, and policymakers from other state entities.

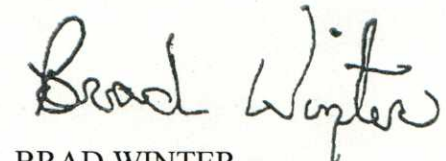
THIS ORDER supersedes any previous orders, proclamations, or directives in conflict. This Executive Order shall take effect immediately and shall remain in effect until such time as the governor rescinds it.

SIGNED AT THE EXECUTIVE OFFICE
THIS 5TH DAY OF DECEMBER 2016.

WITNESS MY HAND AND THE GREAT
SEAL OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO.


SUSANA MARTINEZ
GOVERNOR

ATTEST:


BRAD WINTER
SECRETARY OF STATE

