

## Higher Education Advisory Board Meeting

December 10, 2019 | 3:00-5:00pm

Santa Fe Higher Education Center, Room #159

1950 Siringo Road, Santa Fe, NM 87505

### Board Members:

Dr. Olin Cleve McDaniel, Vice President for Administration and Finance, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology  
Victor Leon, Chief Information Officer, Central New Mexico Community College  
Dr. Joe Shepard, President, Western New Mexico University  
Dr. Dan Arvizu, Chancellor, New Mexico State University  
Dr. Cindy Rooney, Chancellor, University of New Mexico-Los Alamos  
Kathy Keith, Executive Director of the LANL Community Programs Office  
Dr. Becky Rowley, President, Santa Fe Community College  
Dan García, Vice President for Enrollment Management, UNM  
Dr. Ann Filemyr, President, Southwestern College  
Dr. Elmer Guy, President, Navajo Technical University  
Monica Gonzalez, Resource Faculty, Student Success Advocate, Eastern New Mexico University-Ruidoso  
Dr. Monty Harris, Faculty Chair, New Mexico State University-Carlsbad

*Absent:* Lynn Trujillo, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Indian Affairs Department

### NMHED Staff Members:

Cabinet Secretary Kate O'Neil  
Sandra Liggett, Staff Attorney  
David Mathews, Staff Attorney  
Bogi Makecki, IT Director

### Members of the Public:

Alethea Scally, St. John's College  
Mark Valenzuela, LFC  
Marc H. Saavedra, NMCUP  
Ricardo Rel, NMSU

### CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order at 3:21 p.m. by Dr. Rowley.

- I. **INTRODUCTIONS** (*Informal introductions were made prior to the meeting at 3:07 p.m.*)
- II. **APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA**
  - *Dr. Shepard moved to adopt the agenda. Dr. McDaniel seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*
- III. **APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES**
  - Sandra Liggett, HED General Counsel informed the Board that correction to typos were made to the minutes.
  - *Dr. Shepard moved to approve the September 18, 2019 Minutes. Dr. Arvizu seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.*

#### IV. APPROVAL OF THE OPEN MEETINGS ACT

- Ms. Liggett informed the Board that the Open Meetings Act Resolution was approved at the last meeting however, revisions were required pertaining to how and when the meeting notices are posted. They will be noticed and posted on HED's website and at the HED office.
- **Member Keith moved to approve the Open Meetings Act Resolution. Dr. Filemyr seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

#### V. APPROVAL OF BYLAWS

- Ms. Liggett reviewed the simple set of Bylaws that were drafted to fit the needs of this Board (as it will not be essential that the Board address complicated deliberations or complicated election procedures).
- Includes a Mission Statement: *To advise the Secretary on policy matters with an emphasis on increasing college readiness, participation, and completion in New Mexico, particularly among low-income students, first-generation college-going students, and students of color. The Board will also help identify statewide initiatives to promote New Mexico colleges and universities, including assisting with external funding sources and other resources to support the Department's statewide outreach initiatives.*
- Document for Next Meeting: Requested that David Mathews, HED Staff Attorney bring a "Statement of Conflict" to the next meeting. Ms. Liggett is retiring and Mr. Mathews will resume the role of general counsel at future meetings.
- The Board discussed items that need to be corrected.
- **Dr. Arvizu moved to approve the Bylaws with the corrections. Dr. Rooney seconded the motion. Motion carried by unanimous vote.**

#### VI. HED UPDATE - Secretary Kate O'Neill

- Cabinet Secretary O'Neill was pleased to recommend to LFC an increase in the funding formula for 6% and 1.5% redistribution. Higher Ed is 12.2% of the State budget, the national average is 15.8. The recommendations gets us to 12.6%. Strongly advocating for those recurring dollars.
- All of the sectors (research, comprehensive and 2-year sectors) are partnering to make a joint presentation at LFC tomorrow. This is a first and is notable because they are coming together to request \$50M for the BRNR and for infrastructure.
- The GO Bond has a \$154M capacity for public Higher Ed projects, one of the four bonds that will be issued for library and senior centers, etc.
- RPSP projects were extensive this year and they tried to support as many as possible.
- The teacher scholarships were incredibly successful this year.
- She has been meeting with public private partnerships (private colleges, labs, and businesses) and is excited about the economic development initiatives throughout the State.

#### VII. PRESENTATION OF THE BLOCKCHAIN PILOT - HED IT Director, Bogi Malecki

- Mr. Makecki provided a PowerPoint presentation on the IT Initiatives.
- Blockchain: A blockchain, as it relates to bitcoin, is essentially the general financial ledger-type technology that underpins bitcoin and other cryptocurrency. It builds trust and eliminates the middleman in terms of transactions and sharing of information in a secure manner.
- Blockchain is being introduced in order to move from paper records (transcripts, diplomas, certificates and other types of information) and make those items available digitally, securely, in almost real time and in perpetuity.
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- Blockchain Pilot Overview:
  - Issue official diplomas, transcripts, examinations, and badges in a digital format that students can access, share and have verified (by other schools and employers).
  - This service will contribute to a lifelong record of learning and achievement.
  - Implement in January 2020.
  - Initial participating institutions: Highlands University, NNMC and SFCC (and other private post-secondary schools).

**VIII. LONGITUDINAL DATA STUDY** - HED IT Director, Bogi Malecki

- This initiative will help NM close achievement gaps in education and in the workforce that have placed the State near the bottom of national rankings and success indicators.
- Build a system which collects, validates and combines key child, student and worker data into a federated data warehouse.
- Initial data sources: DWS, ECECD, HED, and PED.
- NMLDS – Proposed:
  - Collect and validate data for key institutions to access.
  - Taking to legislature to fund.
  - C2 Funding Request
    - NMHED is requesting a total amount of \$274,000 for FY21 for the initiation of the NMLDS project, i.e., to analyze, plan, establish a framework, and create a roadmap for implementing NMLDS (Phase I).
    - NMHED is planning to secure \$3,195,000 in Federal funding for the FY22-FY24 implementation and closeout of the NMLDS (Phases II and III).
- From cradle to retirement, this will track a person’s educational journey.

**IX. OPPORTUNITY SCHOLARSHIP PROPOSAL** - Deputy Secretary Carmen Lopez and Director, Financial Aid, Harrison Rommel and HED IT Director, Bogi Malecki

- The NM Opportunity Scholarship website was revealed and will go live very soon.
- Cabinet Secretary O’Neill shared that the vision for the scholarship is two-parts:
  - Part 1 – Recent High School Graduates: To build off the Lottery Scholarship, specifically, tuition and fees.
  - Part 2 – Returning Students (24 years of age or older) who are returning to school, who do not already have a degree, to receive an associate’s degree.
  - All eligibility requirements must be met.
- Twenty-two states have created similar scholarships and 10 more, including NM, are having discussions on how to fill their skills-gaps by getting students in the door, earning degrees, and into the workforce.
- There is some confusion regarding “Last Dollar”. It is Last Dollar for Federal and State aid – not Last Dollar in total. Last Dollar in terms of public funds and “Middle Dollar” in terms of total funds.
- Ms. Liggett discussed that the NMEA Foundation has implemented a major statewide initiative to increase FAFSA training. It is complicated to walk someone through the FAFSA application process. Their goal is to raise the FAFSA completion rate by 15% by having more trained individuals familiar with the process.
- MOUs: Cabinet Secretary O’Neill explained that the basic idea in looking at various data (national data, WICHE data, the Higher Ed Price Index, tuition range increases over the last 5-10 years, etc.) is to come up with a metric that makes sense. Institutions that accept the Opportunity Scholarship dollars would be instructed to not raise tuition a certain percentage in any given year. Another condition is that institutions would be required to pick 3 out of 12 student success measures, commit to them, and provide a year-end report so that information can be gathered and evaluated so that we know what’s working where.
- Cabinet Secretary O’Neill inquired as to whether the Board would be willing to serve in an advisory capacity to offer feedback on best practices (regarding department re-designs; summer bridge programs, enrollment retention) that they have witnessed and what they think should be implemented to achieve the goals of getting and keeping students in NM, earning degrees, and into the NM workforce. The Board agreed to serve in this advisory capacity.

**X. PUBLIC COMMENT:** *None.*

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION:** *None Requested.*

**XII. ADJOURNMENT**

***Dr. Rooney motioned to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Dr. Arvizu. Motion carried by unanimous vote. The meeting adjourned at 4:52 p.m.***



Victor Leon, Board Secretary