

NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY

MEMORANDUM

TO: Campus Senate Leadership
FROM: Dr. Teresita E. Aguilar, Chair, Strategic Planning Steering Committee
DATE: January 12, 2016
SUBJECT: Selection of Final Mission Statement

A survey was sent via a global message to students, faculty, staff, alumni and community on December 4, 2015 to vote on a new mission statement. We received 330 responses. Option D (see #1) was the clear favorite, garnering 161 votes (49%) for first place ranking, followed by Option A receiving 56 votes (17%) for first place ranking. Nearly one-third (n=104) of the respondents included comments, with several suggesting combining elements of these options. The Strategic Planning Steering Committee took the extensive input and feedback provided by those completing the survey and modified Option D (see #2) to create a new statement. Members of the Strategic Planning Steering Committee unanimously supported the revised statement (#2) for consideration by the Board of Regents. This action was tabled at the Dec 17, 2015 BOR meeting, pending additional input from constituents to consider either #1 (most votes) or #2 (recommended statement as revised by the Strategic Planning Steering Committee).

#1 Most popular Mission Statement selection (Option D) – From Survey results:

New Mexico Highlands University's mission is to provide a quality, affordable education to a diverse undergraduate and graduate student population, to serve our communities, and create new knowledge.

#2 Proposed- Modification/combination of Options D & A and suggestions from open-ended responses:

NMHU is a public comprehensive university serving our local and global communities. Our mission is to provide opportunities to attain an exceptional education, by fostering creative and critical thinking in the liberal arts, sciences, and professions within a diverse community.

Please present these two options to your respective constituencies to select one of these two options for the Board of Regents' consideration. I remind you of the urgency in identifying a new mission statement, upon which we will build the **HU Vision 2020** Priorities. As soon as we have the BOR approval of a new mission statement, we will complete the next steps to finalize the new Strategic Plan (Core Values, Vision and Priorities). Our current budget process must be associated with the university strategic plan and priorities, and we will be asked for an update on these matters at the special meeting of the HLC in April. On behalf of the Steering Committee, we appreciate your leadership in moving this forward in a timely manner. Thank you!

Xc: Members, Strategic Planning Steering Committee
President Minner and Executive Team