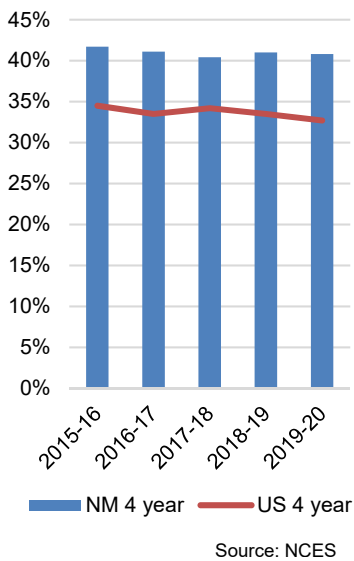


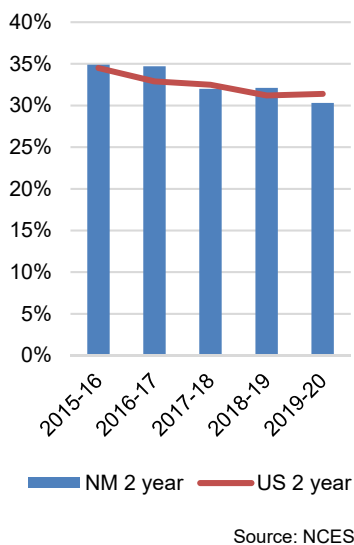
## ACTION PLAN

Submitted by agency?	No
Timeline assigned?	No
Responsibility assigned?	No

### Pell Grant Eligibility, 4-year



### Pell Grant Eligibility, 2-year



## Higher Education Institutions

Since 2011, enrollment at higher education institutions (HEI) nationwide has declined 10 percent on average while New Mexico institutions experienced a 27 percent decline. In 2010, New Mexico's college-going rate peaked at 72.4 percent, but has steadily fallen and was down to 54 percent in 2020. Additionally, retention rates for New Mexico college students lag the U.S. average leading to fewer degree completions. New Mexico ranks 39<sup>th</sup> in the nation in the proportion of the population holding a bachelor's degree.

In addition to facing declining enrollment, New Mexico HEIs must address the needs of a student population that is both poorer and less prepared to succeed in college than their peers nationally. This will require HEIs to both right size staffing and maintain adequate supports to allow students to complete degrees.

Increasing educational attainment increases incomes and improves quality of life for graduates. In 2019, the median earnings of those with a bachelor's degree (\$55,700) were 39 percent higher than those with an associate's degree (\$40 thousand) and 59 percent higher than those with only a high school diploma. Increasing the populace's income is good for New Mexico. It means fewer people are reliant on state and federal supports, and a more educated workforce makes the state a more attractive place to bring new business and economic development opportunities.

## Students

New Mexico is the fourth-poorest state in the nation with a median income of \$25,881, well below the national median of \$31,133. The relatively low incomes are reflected in the proportion of college students receiving Pell grants, a federal financial aid program targeted at low-income students. In 2019-2020, 41 percent of New Mexico students at 4-year institutions received Pell grants compared with 33 percent for the U.S. on average. New Mexico students at 2-year institutions are slightly less likely to receive a Pell grant than the national average. Numerous studies have shown that low income students receiving Pell grants are less likely than non-Pell grant recipients to graduate.

In addition to being poorer than their national peers, New Mexico students are less prepared for college success as measured by ACT scores. According to the U.S. Department of Education, New Mexico students in the 75<sup>th</sup> percentile scored roughly similar to their national peers, but those in the bottom 25<sup>th</sup> percentile scored lower than their peers nationally. These test data indicate high-performing students in New Mexico compare well with their peers nationally, but lower-performers have more acute educational deficiencies than their peers and will likely need increased support to succeed.

### 25th Percentile ACT Score Comparison, 2020

	% Taking Test	Composite	Math	English
<b>U.S. Average</b>		<b>20.1</b>	<b>19.1</b>	<b>19.0</b>
<b>Eastern New Mexico University</b>	<b>76%</b>	<b>17.0</b>	16.0	15.0
<b>New Mexico Tech</b>	<b>79%</b>	<b>23.0</b>	23.0	21.0
<b>New Mexico State University</b>	<b>70%</b>	<b>17.0</b>	17.0	16.0
<b>University of New Mexico</b>	<b>75%</b>	<b>17.0</b>	17.0	17.0

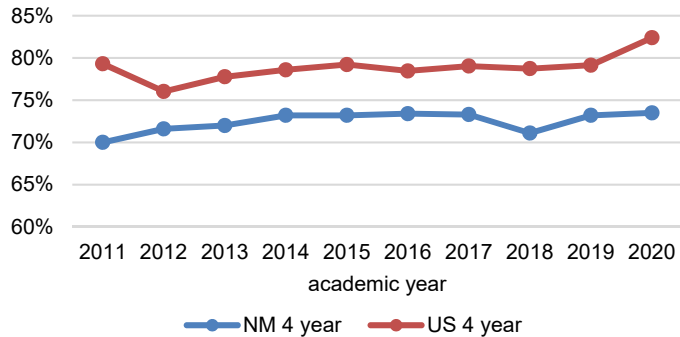
Source: U.S. Department of Education

## PERFORMANCE REPORT CARD

### Higher Education Institutions Third Quarter, Fiscal Year 2022

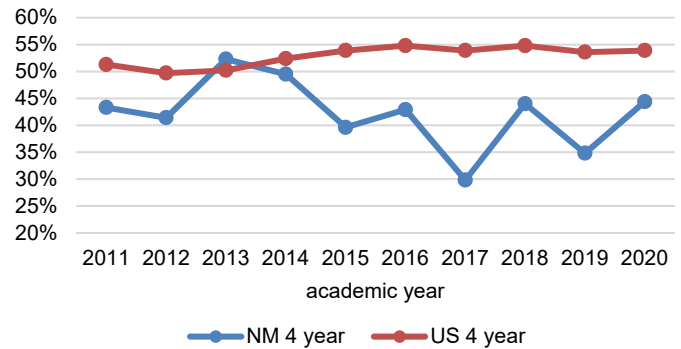
Data show persistence of full-time students at 2-year colleges is roughly the same as the U.S. average, but part-time 2-year students are retained at a rate slightly less than the national average. Students at 4-year institutions, both full-time and part-time, are much less likely to persist than their peers nationally.

**Fall to Fall Retention Rate for First-time, Full-time Undergraduate Students**



Source: NCES

**Fall to Fall Retention Rate for First-Time, Part-time Undergraduate Students**



Source: NCES

### Affordability

Tuition at New Mexico HEIs is significantly lower than the national average for both 2- and 4-year institutions. Net price is the total cost of attendance (including tuition, books, supplies, fees, room and board, and other expenses) minus any federal or state aid or scholarship. New Mexico's net price compares favorably to the region, though the costs are more in-line with regional averages rather than significantly below them, suggesting the cost of attendance is a major driver of costs faced by New Mexico students.

#### Public HEI Tuition and Fee Comparison

Institution	2019-20
US Avg. 2 yr.	\$3,377

CNM	\$1,650
CCC	\$1,376
ENMU-Roswell	\$2,256
NMSU-Dona Ana	\$1,776
SJC	\$1,546
SFCC	\$1,755

US Avg. 4 yr.	\$16,647
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ENMU-Main	\$6,450
Highlands	\$6,318
NM Tech	\$8,156
NMSU-Main	\$7,087
Northern	\$4,952
UNM-Main	\$7,875
Western	\$6,306

Source: NCES

#### Average Net Price by Sector and State, 2019-2020

Type	New Mexico	Arizona	Colorado	Oklahoma	Texas	Utah
2 year	7,089	8,762	10,321	7,818	6,642	6,204
4 year	11,357	14,142	13,598	11,218	10,394	11,605

Source: IPEDS

### Opportunity Scholarship

The Legislature recognized the importance of higher education in economic development and overwhelmingly supported the creation of the Opportunity Scholarship to pay the portion of tuition and fees not covered by the existing lottery scholarship and other aid programs. The new scholarship will effectively result in tuition-free college for New Mexicans who do not already hold a bachelor's degree.

It is likely the Opportunity Scholarship will provide a powerful inducement for New Mexicans to seek a higher education credential and has the potential to reverse enrollment declines at New Mexico HEIs. Unlike the lottery scholarship, Opportunity will appeal to a group of non-traditional students who were previously ineligible for financial aid. Given the state's underperformance in retention rates for traditional students, it is likely that a new group of non-traditional students will face similar obstacles. For this reason, it will be imperative for New Mexico HEIs to develop

performance measures to track these students and ensure they have the supports necessary to successfully complete the degrees they begin.

### Right-Sizing Institutions

New Mexico's current population trends suggest enrollment declines will continue unless recruitment and retention improve. According to U.S. Census Bureau population data, people under age 18 decreased by 42.8 thousand (8 percent) and people age 18-24 decreased by 7.7 thousand (4 percent) from 2010 to 2019. If these trends continue into the future and further decrease college enrollment, New Mexico's 24 state-funded colleges and universities will need to adapt in two key ways. First, the state's colleges and universities will need to become more streamlined and collaborative in the use of finite resources for instruction, administration, and capital outlay. Second, the state's colleges and universities will need to aggressively improve their recruitment and retention of resident and out-of-state students.

**Faculty to Student  
Ratio, 2018**

	New Mexico	U.S. Avg.
2 year	19.3	18.4
4 year	14.3	14.2

Source: NCES

As student enrollment has fallen, so too have New Mexico HEI staffing levels. According the National Center for Education Statistics, the number of people employed by public HEIs in New Mexico fell from 26.4 thousand in 2011 to 21 thousand in 2020, a decline of 20 percent. Over this same time, the number of full-time students fell from 96.9 thousand to 70.9 thousand, a reduction of 27 percent. According to NCES, the faculty to student ratios for 2-year institutions are slightly higher than the national average and the 4-year ratio is roughly equivalent to the national average.

