

HEST Transition Advisory Committee February Report Out

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Purpose of the report out: Inform HEST faculty and staff of details from the HEST Transition Advisory Committee meetings

Committee Members: Henrietta Williams Pichon, Gladys De Necochea, Jill McDonald, Joan, Wilson, Anna Nelson, David G. Ortiz Canseco, Larissa True, Teresa Keller, Cecilia Hernandez, Juanita Hannan, Patrick Mendoza, Lupita Duran, Abel Covarrubias, Denise Rodriguez-Strawn, Amanda Romero

This community report out summarizes our work during the January 18, February 2, and February 16 meetings, where we worked to plan, prepare for, and host a series of roundtable dialogues addressing data-driven issues most impactful to the state of New Mexico and the Borderlands region.

These roundtable sessions were created with the intent of bringing topic-specific experts together with faculty, students and communities to have a conversation about ways in which our interdisciplinary College can collaborate with others to positively impact New Mexico. So far this Spring, we have held three roundtables:

1. January 21: Critical Workforce Shortages in Education and Health. In New Mexico, critical workforce shortages in front-line professions, such as education, nursing, social work and public health, are prevalent. This dialogue included experts from two school districts, TPAL faculty, nursing, social work, and healthcare. Three primary questions were discussed: 1) What are reasons why you believe there is a teacher/healthcare worker shortage in New Mexico?; 2) How might we encourage our youth to apply and enroll at NMSU in these fields?; 3) Is there something that community leaders can do to ensure that our graduates stay in the area once they have successfully completed their degrees?
2. February 4: Racial and Economic Disparities in the Borderland. During the dual pandemics of COVID-19 and racism, this dialogue addressed oppression and its impact on communities across New Mexico and the roles HEST can play in promoting social justice and equity.
3. February 18: Healthcare Disparities in the Borderland. Well-evidenced are health and behavioral health disparities impacting immigrants and their families. This roundtable discussion engaged first-year college students and discussed the work being done to eliminate these disparities while also exploring innovative methods through intentional collaboration.

We feel strongly that these roundtable discussions have been productive spaces to discuss pressing issues that the College of HEST can ultimately contribute to in a positive, impactful manner. Our fourth community conversation will be held on March 4; please stay tuned for Zoom information and details on the next roundtable discussion.

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