CENTRAL NEW MEXICO EDUCATION COMPACT

PREAMBLE

High-quality education, from pre-school through college, is essential to the health, safety, and economic prosperity of our Central New Mexico community. Unfortunately, too many of our students don’t graduate from high school, and even fewer graduate with a college credential or degree.

As a community, we must increase the number of students who graduate from high school, community colleges, and universities in Central New Mexico. We know that we must work together as one community to achieve this goal.

We also know that the factors that promote educational success are complex, and there are many possible issues to address, none of which can be solved without supporting children and youth from cradle through college and career—both in school and out of school.

There is no single solution. We must bridge old divides, heal past wounds, and set aside self-interest to forge new partnerships for the sake of our children and youth. We must align and coordinate the many local efforts and successful programs that serve students and their families. We must provide constructive support to our educational institutions to allow them to fulfill their missions to the best of their abilities. And we must strive to eliminate historic disparities that have resulted in inequitable educational outcomes for our students of color and low-income students.

In addition, we must set ambitious, yet attainable goals for educational success, and we must hold ourselves accountable, while learning from our mistakes and using the lessons from the past as the basis for continuous improvement and innovation.

Finally, we must rally all sectors of the community around a shared vision for educational success. Increasing graduation and college attainment rates in Central New Mexico will lead to a more informed and engaged citizenry, as well as a workforce capable of transforming Central New Mexico’s economy into one of the most vibrant and healthy economies in the nation. It will take time, but with steady leadership, continuous communication, a commitment to shared measurement, aligned actions, and the support of the United Way of Central New Mexico, we will realize our vision.

COMMITMENTS

Be it resolved that:

We, a collaborative of education, business, civic, and community leaders, commit to the following:

A Vision for a world-class, seamless, and coordinated education system that provides equitable opportunities for all children and youth to excel and succeed in school, graduate with a postsecondary degree, and enter a career of their choosing in Central New Mexico.
A **Common Purpose** to nurture and develop the next generation of skilled workers, engaged citizens, and civic leaders, by setting big goals for educational attainment, developing a common agenda, galvanizing all sectors of the community, and supporting and holding each other accountable as we work toward achievement of the goals.

A **Goal** to add 60,000 new associate’s, bachelor’s, and graduate degrees to Central New Mexico by 2020.

To achieve this goal, we commit to the following **Objectives** in Central New Mexico:

1. Eliminate the achievement gaps that perpetuate inequitable educational outcomes throughout the educational continuum, from pre-school through college
2. Increase high school graduation rates
3. Increase college and university enrollment
4. Increase college and university graduation rates
5. Align these education objectives with local and regional efforts to recruit and cultivate the growth of new businesses and entrepreneurs to ensure that all graduates have bountiful opportunities for gainful employment

Further, we commit to the development of a set of **Strategies** to initiate and sustain this effort. These strategies:

1. Will span the cradle-to-career continuum, in alignment with the Objectives set forth above;
2. Will be developed in close collaboration with a broad cross-section of stakeholders in our community;
3. Will draw upon the best ideas and lessons learned from past and ongoing collaborative efforts;
4. Will be rolled out in phases according to the priorities identified jointly by the Vision Council and the broader community; and
5. Will be regularly evaluated to make improvements and assess the impact of our efforts toward the Goal specified above.

Through our individual and collective efforts, in close coordination with the Central New Mexico Education Support Initiative’s Operations Team, we hereby undertake to honor all of the commitments outlined above, with the understanding that the scope and scale of this initiative will be continually refined as it unfolds.

**AGREED**, this 9th day of January, 2013.

![Signature]

Kathie Winograd, Co-Chair
President
Central New Mexico Community College

![Signature]

James H. Hinton, Co-Chair
President & CEO
Presbyterian Healthcare Services
Sherry Allison
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Richard J. Berry
Mayor
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V. Sue Cleveland
Superintendent
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