



NEW MEXICO
ASSOCIATION of
COMMUNITY
COLLEGES

HIGHER EDUCATION UNIFIED PRIORITIES FOR 2024 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Funding to transform and grow New Mexico's economy

Supported by the Higher Education Regents Coalition

Instruction & General (I&G) Funding Increase for Significant Impact on Student Outcomes

This Unified request for \$83.1 million in recurring funding for core higher education operations, including instruction and student support (a 10.5% increase), will have a significant impact on student outcomes. \$49.3 million is requested for general operations increases. To maintain current instructional programs and services the Higher Education Price Index (HEPI) forecasts a 4.4% increase is necessary.

- \$15.8 million is requested for student support initiatives focused on student retention and graduation, such as tutoring, academic advising, student basic needs services (wrap around services), and behavioral & mental health, including suicide prevention.
- \$11.0 million is requested to increase campus safety services at all public higher education institutions, including New Mexico Military Institute and New Mexico's Native American institutions.
- A minimum of \$7.0 million is requested to fully fund employee benefit enhancements, such as increasing the employer share of group insurance.

A Few Facts: New I&G Funding Formula Dollars Ratio to New Tuition Dollars

Each 1% of formula funding is approximately a 2.8% tuition increase.

- Each 1% of formula funding generates approximately \$7.9M for formula funded institutions.
- A 1% Base increase to I&G is approximately (\$10.4M).
- Tuition increases: each 1% tuition increase generates approximately \$2.8M.

Compensation increases of 6% for all employees. Additional 3% targeted increase for faculty.

- We request the compensation percentage funded by the state (general fund appropriation) be increased.
- Institutions request flexibility to budget an “average” increase to address pay inequities, which includes addressing compensation for lowest paid staff.
- This request includes the additional increase to retain and attract full and part-time faculty.

Additional Requests (Non-Recurring):

- \$10 million for continued support of the **Higher Education Endowment Fund**.
- \$15 million for a significant infusion of funding from sources outside the funding formula to support **Dual Credit** programs over a three-to-five-year period.
- \$100 million for continued funding for the **Technology Enhancement Fund** with the goal of a \$500 million permanent fund.
- \$100 million for expenditure in five fiscal years, \$20 million per year, for expenditure by community colleges, regional universities, and Native American institutions for **workforce training** including internships.
- \$11 million to provide **campus safety equipment**.
- Minimum of \$11.5 million for expanded **cybersecurity** initiatives.
- \$50 million to support **building renewal and replacement**. This includes funding for critical infrastructure, addressing critical deferred maintenance needs, building demolition, and construction cost overruns due to inflation and supply chain challenges.
- \$10 million for instruction and **general equipment renewal and replacement**.



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