

TODAY'S STUDENTS, TOMORROW'S WORKFORCE: A Town Hall on Higher Education

Brochure and Registration Form



April 20-22, 2006

The Lodge at Santa Fe
Santa Fe, NM

Convened by:
New Mexico First

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New Mexicans are invited to this town hall on strengthening the state's higher education system to better prepare students for the careers of the future. Participants will work together to develop concrete recommendations for state and education policymakers. Parents, business leaders, educators, public officials, and students are urged to attend.



NEW MEXICO FIRST

People. Ideas. Progress. 20 Years.

Overview

Most New Mexicans agree that higher education is essential to our citizens' and our state's growth and development. The state supports 28 public two-year and four-year colleges and universities, ensuring that practically all our citizens live within convenient driving distance of a school. Yet only a third of working New Mexicans complete an associate's degree or higher.

Given that two-thirds of our people lack any type of college degree – and that increasing numbers of future jobs require higher skills – experts agree that New Mexico must move more of its people through college to keep the state from sinking deeper into poverty. Employers point out that even students who complete college often lack abilities needed for work. This lack of a skilled workforce, business leaders argue, prevents employers from locating their companies in New Mexico.

Reformers differ on how to address these important higher education issues. Some believe that the state cannot meaningfully improve its colleges and universities without strengthening collaboration with K-12 education; others argue for prioritizing reform efforts primarily within the higher education system itself.

These issues affect all New Mexicans. You are encouraged to help the state find solutions by attending the upcoming town hall: *Today's Students, Tomorrow's Workforce: A Town Hall on Higher Education*.

Town Hall Process

New Mexico First town halls are not typical conferences with day after day of presentations. There will be a few guest speakers to help set the context, but the bulk of the town hall is comprised of small group discussions among citizens who care about the topic.

Prior to the town hall, you will receive a background report. This report will provide valuable and interesting information on the town hall topic. It will also serve as a basis for your discussions during the town hall.

Using New Mexico First's proven consensus-building process, the three-day town hall will ask participants to share their best ideas for improving the state's higher education system.

On day one of the town hall, participants are divided into their small groups to discuss higher education issues. On day two, participants begin refining and combining those answers. By noon on day three, you and the other participants will have developed concrete, doable recommendations for local, state, federal, and education policymakers.

Seating is limited. The town hall process can accommodate about 100 people. For this reason, early registration is highly recommended.

“The smartest thing we can do to create high-wage jobs and grow our economy is to keep our focus on education.”

--Bill Richardson, Governor of New Mexico

Dates and Location

DATES: April 20-22, 2006

TIMES:

- Thursday, April 20, 10 am - 8 pm (includes lunch and dinner)
- Friday, April 21, 8 am - 8:30 pm (includes breakfast, lunch, and an evening meal)
- Saturday, April 22, 8 am - 11:30 am (includes breakfast)

WHERE: The Lodge at Santa Fe (formerly the Radisson), 750 St. Francis Drive, Santa Fe, New Mexico, 87501. Phone: (505) 992-5800

Who Should Attend?

- **PARENTS AND STUDENTS**, who are the “customers” of the state’s education system
- **EDUCATORS**, who understand the current education systems and may know how to improve them
- **BUSINESS LEADERS**, who need the education systems to prepare skilled employees
- **PUBLIC OFFICIALS**, who bring expertise and may be called on to implement the town hall recommendations

In order to ensure a balance of viewpoints within the town hall, registrations may be capped in some categories.

Guest Speakers

- **GOVERNOR BILL RICHARDSON** seeks to increase opportunities for New Mexicans to attend and graduate from colleges and universities. He recently pushed for the establishment of the college affordability endowment that will enable thousands of new students to enroll in New Mexico colleges and universities.
- **SECRETARY BEVERLEE MCCLURE, Ed.D.**, is the state’s first Cabinet Secretary of Higher Education. In this role she is charged with creating a statewide policy agenda for higher education. Previously, Dr. McClure was the president of Clovis Community College.
- **SECRETARY VERONICA GARCIA, Ed.D.**, was appointed New Mexico’s first cabinet Secretary of Education in October of 2003. She will speak on the relationship of K-12 institutions to the higher education system.
- **PATRICK M. CALLAN** is president of the National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education. The National Center is a nonpartisan organization that addresses state and federal policy issues affecting colleges and universities. It conducts research and seeks to be a catalyst for improving public policy nationwide. The National Center is best known for its *Measuring Up* report cards that evaluate states’ higher education performance.

PANEL PRESENTATIONS featuring New Mexico education and business leaders will include:

- Dr. Steve Gamble, President, Eastern New Mexico University
- Dr. Carol Spencer, President, San Juan College
- Dr. Peter White, Dean of University College at the University of New Mexico
- Terri Cole, President and CEO, Greater Albuquerque Chamber of Commerce
- Michael D. DeWitte, P.E., Chair of the New Mexico Business Roundtable
- David Lepre, Ph.D., Council of University Presidents
- Jack Jekowski, Innovative Technology Partnerships

“Problem-solving, higher order thinking, collaboration, and communication are the tools we need as we work on 21st century skills.”

*--Beverlee McClure, Secretary,
newly created N.M. Department of Higher Education*

Plenary Chair

TONY TRUJILLO, Director of Governmental Relations at Phelps Dodge Mining Company, will facilitate the final plenary session, during which the town hall recommendations will be finalized.

About New Mexico First

Co-founded in 1986 by Senators Pete Domenici (R-NM) and Jeff Bingaman (D-NM), New Mexico First meaningfully engages citizens in public policy. A nonpartisan, nonprofit organization, we are best known for our statewide town halls, through which we have engaged over 5,000 people in our state’s democratic process.

Agenda

DAY 1, Thursday, April 20, 2006	
10 am	Registration
11 am-1 pm	Lunch and Welcomes <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Secretary Beverlee McClure, Higher Education Department Secretary Veronica Garcia, Public Education Department
1:15-2:15	Panel presentation
2:15-2:45	Background report presentations
3-6 pm	Small group discussions
6-8 pm	Dinner and Keynote: Patrick Callen, national higher education expert
DAY 2, Friday, April 21, 2006	
7:30 am	Continental breakfast
8:00-12:30	Small group discussions
12:30-1:30	Lunch & Keynote: Gov. Richardson
1:40-2:40	Small group discussions
2:50-3:50	Combined group discussions
4 pm-5:30	Mini-plenary and amendments
5:30-8:30	Reception, hosted by the City of Santa Fe and Mayor David Coss
DAY 3, Saturday, April 22, 2006	
7:45-9 am	Working breakfast
9:15-11:45	Plenary Session
11:45	Adjourn

All times are tentative and subject to change.

What Happens *After* the Town Hall?

The recommendations you help develop will not sit on a shelf. Town hall participants may volunteer for the "implementation team" to advance your recommendations with state leaders. The following leaders have already agreed to co-chair your implementation team:

FORMER GOVERNOR GARREY CARRUTHERS, Ph.D., is Dean of the College of Business Administration and Economics at New Mexico State Univ.; he was governor from 1987-1990.

MICHAEL D. DEWITTE, P.E., is the Chair of the New Mexico Business Roundtable and is a senior manager with Sandia National Labs; Sandia employs about 7500 New Mexicans.

Registration

Early registration is strongly encouraged. The registration cost covers participant meals during the town hall. **(A limited number of scholarships are available for participants demonstrating financial need.** Contact Krista Koppinger at 505-241-4813 or kristak@nmfirst.org for information.)

Registration closes at 5 pm, Friday, April 14.

- **MEMBER REGISTRATION:** \$120 (participant or observer).
- **NON-MEMBER REGISTRATION:** \$200 (participant or observer). Registration fee includes annual membership fee, making you part of New Mexico First for a full year.
- **LATE REGISTRATION FEE:** \$145 for members and \$225 for non-members (after April 6)
- **THURSDAY LUNCHEON ONLY:** \$30. Presentations by cabinet secretaries and researchers (April 20: 11 am-2:45)
- **THURSDAY KEYNOTE DINNER ONLY:** \$50. Presentation by national higher education reformer Patrick Callen (April 20: 6-8 pm)
- **FRIDAY LUNCHEON ONLY:** \$30. Governor Richardson speaking (April 21: 12:30-1:30)
- **FRIDAY RECEPTION ONLY:** Free. David Coss, Mayor of Santa Fe, speaking (April 21, 5:30-8:30)

Register online at www.nmfirst.org.

You will receive confirmation materials by email after you register. Cancelled registrations will be charged a \$25 administrative fee. Registrations are nonrefundable after April 6, 2006.

HOTEL: The Lodge at Santa Fe offers a special rate of \$89 to registrants making reservations before April 2. Contact them directly at 505-992-5800 or 1-888-563-4373 to reserve a room.

TYPES OF PARTICIPATION

Participants take part in the discussions, debate ideas, and work to hammer out the final recommendations of the town hall. Most registrants are participants.

Observers watch the participants work but do not take part in any of the group discussions.

QUESTIONS?

Contact us at:
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