

- integrated into campus and community life.*
- (b) *New Mexico students will compete with students nationwide for jobs in an increasingly globalized economy and they need to have comparable opportunities with non-residents to study abroad for credit toward their degree. However, only four New Mexico universities (UNM, NMSU, NMTU, and NMHU) reported in 2003 to Open Doors that they send students abroad to study for credit. Among the top two New Mexico universities who send students abroad, nationally they rank 215th (UNM) and 297th (NMSU) in number of students who study abroad for credit toward a degree (Open Doors 2003). The five major barriers to New Mexico students studying abroad are: (1) limited access to affordable programs, such as exchanges, sponsored by New Mexico institutions, (2) the higher cost of study abroad (due to travel, mandatory insurance, travel documents, and higher costs of living in many countries), (3) the lack of institutional scholarships to help cover the additional costs of study abroad (so all students, not just those with higher incomes, may have access), (4) limited integration of the curriculum (both undergraduate and graduate) with study abroad so that students don't lose credit and delay graduation, and (5) institutional bureaucracy related to financial aid and credit transfer.*
  - (c) *Despite having Carnegie I research institutions and other excellent colleges and universities with expertise in the sciences and technology, the arts, health sciences, the humanities, agriculture, business, education, and many other disciplines, New Mexico ranks 38th nationally in the number of international scholars participating in these institutions. As a result, New Mexico loses opportunities to use top scientists and professionals in many fields in teaching, research, outreach, and other activities that would contribute to social, technological, and economic innovation and development that would benefit the private and public sectors of the state. The state also does not benefit from financial contributions that these higher paid professionals provide to local communities by spending at local businesses.*
  - (d) *New Mexico universities who enroll international students and employ international scholars seldom utilize this valuable resource to help faculty members to incorporate international dimensions in courses or to build long-term relationships with the scholars' home institutions to develop mutually beneficial research or development projects.*

### **Goal III**

**Develop practical strategies to help colleges and universities to partner with local business and professional organizations, the K-12 schools, and local government agencies to develop and implement a unified international education outreach strategy that will promote economic, technological, and cultural development and inform citizens of international issues.**

- (a) Implement outreach programs using international students, scholars, and university faculty members and staff with international expertise to work with primary and secondary schools to improve students' knowledge of history, geography, foreign languages, and intercultural and international issues.
- (b) Implement outreach programs that solicit business and professional groups to provide input into how international relationships can help them to enhance their business and professional goals. This should include an appeal to these groups to consider contributing to university foundation programs to provide scholarship assistance to international students and to domestic students who study, work, or volunteer abroad. It should also consider opportunities for arranging internships for international students through reciprocal programs that open up internship for New Mexico students in other countries.
- (c) Implement community town meetings to reach out to the citizens at the local level to address current international issues of interest.

#### ***Rational for Goal 3.***

*Universities that have developed, or will develop, international expertise need to share this expertise with their communities to help citizens address international issues that affect their daily lives. They also need to partner with internationally orientated organizations such as Rotary, Sister Cities, and the International Visitors Program to develop outreach activities that reach widely into local communities.*

NMIEC believes that the time has come for New Mexico to step up to promote an international education policy that will prepare New Mexican students and citizens with global skills and educate international students as a crucial investment in New Mexico's development. New Mexico then will become a partner with other states, national organizations, and the federal government who are working toward an international education policy that serves all states and all citizens.

- (d) Request that the Executive and Legislative Branches of government endorse a policy that encourages public universities to adopt the Texas model for assessing a fee (about \$2) on all enrolled students each semester that is set aside for scholarships to help New Mexico students to study abroad on university sponsored exchanges or faculty led programs.
- (e) Request that the Executive and Legislative branches of government adopt a matching grant program to provide seed money to faculty members who develop projects to internationalize their teaching and/or research agenda and which involves partnering with universities and research institutes in Mexico, Spain, Japan, China and other countries of strategic economic and technological importance to New Mexico (as determined by the Office of Economic Development and other key state agencies).
- (f) Request that the Executive and Legislative branches of government adopt a matching grant program to encourage New Mexico colleges and universities that have committed to an internationalizing strategy to develop practical K-12 and community outreach programs that will enhance the international knowledge and skill of students and help to inform citizens of international issues.

***Rationale for Goal 1:***

*While New Mexico public and private colleges and universities should take initiative without state directives to develop a strategy to internationalize their educational programs and services to attract international students and scholars, to facilitate study abroad development, and to encourage faculty to internationalize their teaching, research and outreach, it would help immensely if the Executive and Legislative branches of government adopted policy statements that send a strong message that this should be expected and will be supported if colleges and universities take action. As of May 12, 2005, four states (California, Louisiana, Texas, and Nevada) have adopted state-level international education resolutions or policies. Enhanced incentives are needed for those institutions that develop strong international student and scholar programs and services, study abroad programs and services, and quality international education teaching, research, and community outreach programs. These incentives should help share costs and should be used to encourage the widest participation among students and citizens as possible. Because of a special relationship that exists between Mexico and New Mexico, non-resident waiver incentives are needed to attract the best Mexican students to study at New Mexico colleges and universities so New Mexico can compete with other border states, such as Texas, that have implemented successful non-resident tuition waiver programs. Investing in Mexican students who are junior faculty in Mexican institutions can be leveraged to develop long term relationships and collaborative projects with these institutions.*

**Goal II**

**Request that all New Mexico public and private colleges and universities declare that they will develop, or decline to develop, at a minimum, an institutional strategy that implements actions and allocates basic institutional resources to:**

- (a) Increase the enrollment of international students and improve support services for these students;
- (b) Increase the enrollment of New Mexico students who want to study abroad in quality international educational programs sponsored by New Mexico institutions;
- (c) Increase the participation of international scholars (professors, researchers, specialists) in teaching, research, outreach and other endeavors; and
- (d) Increase the number of courses that incorporate essential international perspectives

***Rationale for Goal 2:***

*If internationalization is integral to higher education in the 21st century, then New Mexico institutions need to plan to improve their efforts or face being marginalized in a global educational environment. Each institution needs to assess what they want to contribute to international educational development on their home campuses before they can position themselves to contribute to international education development at the local, state, regional, or national level.*

- (a) *New Mexico has excellent higher education programs that should attract more undergraduate and graduate international students than current levels of enrollment in the state. New Mexico ranks 42nd (Open Doors 2003) in international student enrollment, while states bordering New Mexico rank 2nd (Texas), 16th (Arizona), and 28th (Colorado). As a result, New Mexico loses opportunities to attract some of the brightest and best talent around the world, to utilize these talented students on research and service projects of benefit to the state, to develop professional and business alumni links around the world, to infuse new dollars into the state economy (37 million contributed by international students to the state economy in 2003), and to increase awareness of what the state has to offer to the world in terms of the arts, technology, natural resources, tourism, trade, and problem solving in a multicultural and international border society. In order to attract international students at a time when international enrollment nationally has declined, universities in New Mexico need to complement their academic programs with professionally organized and managed international student service programs so that students are welcomed, assisted, and*

## **Advocating for an International Education Policy for New Mexico An Action Plan Proposed by the New Mexico International Education Consortium**

The future of New Mexico is inextricably bound with the ability of its citizens and institutions to integrate — economically, politically, and culturally — into the global community. As a border state, New Mexico's ties to Mexico are strong, but the state must also look to Europe, Asia, and beyond to the rest of the world, if it wants to develop and thrive in a challenging global environment.

New Mexico competes with neighboring states – especially Texas – that have already developed comprehensive strategies for internationalization within their business, educational, governmental and cultural communities. Because of its unique history, New Mexico has traditionally had a high level of intercultural awareness and tolerance, a diverse population, and strong international ties. The state also has outstanding resources in its agriculture, arts, trade and commerce, high-tech, and research sectors. The state is poised to build on its history and resources to develop a viable role in the global community.

Higher education institutions in New Mexico need to take an expanded role to integrate New Mexico into the wider world. Graduates from New Mexico colleges and universities will compete in a global economy where international experience, knowledge of other cultures and customs, competency in foreign languages, and the ability to work across international boundaries have become essential for success in the job market. As citizens, these graduates need to understand complex international and intercultural issues to be able to make the informed decisions required in a democratic society. The responsibility for creating an international strategy for New Mexico higher education and implementing it, however, requires partnerships with government, business, and local communities to be effective.

The New Mexico International Education Consortium (NMIEC), which represents both public and private colleges and universities, proposes **three key advocacy initiatives** that will drive the development of a statewide international education strategy:

- (1) Advocate that the State of New Mexico at the executive and legislative levels of government declare that international education is a vital component of educating its citizens from K-12 through university and that appropriate policies will be implemented and incentive resources will be allocated to stimulate international educational development statewide;
- (2) Advocate that all New Mexico colleges and universities, public and private, commit to promoting internationalization in the teaching, research, and outreach missions of their institutions and to taking a strong role in infusing international education in the K-12 system and in their local business and service communities.
- (3) Advocate that the business community, service and professional organizations, and other local leadership groups partner with the higher education community to develop international education outreach programs that will promote community and citizenship awareness of critical international issues that impact New Mexico.

NMIEC also proposes that **three basic higher education internationalization goals** be implemented to further the advocacy steps stated previously:

### **GOAL I**

**Request that the Executive and Legislative branches of the State of New Mexico initiate and fund an incentive program that will assist higher education to implement an internationalization strategy.** This incentive program should have two levels: (1) basic and (2) enhanced.

#### **Basic Incentives:**

- (a) Adopt a State of New Mexico International Education policy statement that encourages and supports college and university international educational development as vital and beneficial to the interests of the people of New Mexico.
- (b) Request the Governor to instruct the Office of the Secretary of Higher Education to encourage New Mexico colleges and universities to commit to adopting an internationalization strategy as vital to New Mexico higher education.

#### **Enhanced Incentives:**

- (c) Request that the Executive and Legislative Branches of government adopt an expanded non-resident tuition waiver program for international students by increasing the percentage of non-resident waivers that can be utilized by public universities for international students. In addition, request that universities that use this program make special efforts to use these non-resident tuition waivers not only to increase international student enrollment from all parts of the world in New Mexico but also to build stronger faculty relations with Mexican institutions who want to send junior faculty to New Mexico to receive graduate degrees. Recipients of the non-resident waivers should be required to participate in institutional projects that internationalize courses or build research collaborations or in community outreach projects that enhance understanding of key international issues in the priority areas such as Biosciences, Information Sciences and Security Systems, Natural Resources Sustainability and Renewal, Twenty-first Century Aerospace, and U.S.-Mexico Border Development.