

NMSU GRANTS PREPARES FOR TEN YEAR ACCREDITATION VISIT

Our New Mexico State University Grants campus is preparing for its ten-year accreditation site visit scheduled for Tuesday, April 29, 2008. The accreditation site visit is conducted by our accrediting body, the Higher Learning Commission (HLC) of the North Central Association (NCA) of Colleges and Schools out of Chicago. NCA was founded in 1895 as one of the six regional institutional accreditors of higher education institutions in the United States.

A team of twelve higher education personnel from higher education institutions from throughout the United States, i.e. faculty/administrators, will visit New Mexico State University in Las Cruces arriving Sunday 4/27 through Wednesday 4/30 to conduct NMSU's accreditation. Two of the twelve HLC site team members will visit NMSU-Grants all day Tuesday, 4/29 to verify that our campus meets accreditation standards. A schedule of that visit is included in our Accreditation link 'Resource Room'. A copy of the full NMSU Self-Study document can be viewed at www.grants.nmsu.edu (Accreditation /Resource Room). Documents of particular interest are the overall NMSU Self-Study March 2008, NMSU-Grants (Chapter 6) of the Self-Study document, NMSU Grants Institutional Snapshot (data) and the April 29 site visit schedule. Several other documents are included in the Resource Room that may be of interest.

Accreditation is a ten year cycle and NMSU Grants currently participates as a component of the accreditation cycle of our parent campus New Mexico State University in Las Cruces. Two of our NMSU colleague community colleges, Carlsbad and Alamogordo, achieved their stand alone accreditation in previous years. Dona Ana Community College (in Las Cruces), our largest NMSU community college colleague is undergoing their first independent accreditation review during this same timeframe by HLC and will be visited by a second team of ten HLC reviewers.



View of City of Grants and Mt. Taylor in the background – Photo credit of PocoLoco Players Student Club

Accreditation is required in order for colleges to operate, to be approved to offer federal financial aid to students and to verify that students are being provided the best quality education. Details and examples of evidence related to the five Criterion can be viewed on the HLC's website: www.ncahigherlearningcommission.org

The criteria for accreditation that we will be evaluated on are organized under five major headings as follows:

- **Criterion One: Mission and Integrity.** *The organization operates with integrity to ensure the fulfillment of its mission through structures and processes that involve the board, administration, faculty, staff, and students.*
- **Criterion Two: Preparing for the Future.** *The organization's allocation of resources and its processes for evaluation and planning demonstrate its capacity to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its education, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.*
- **Criterion Three: Student Learning and Effective Teaching.** *The organization provides evidence of student learning and teaching effectiveness that demonstrates it is fulfilling its educational mission.*

- **Criterion Four: Acquisition, Discover, and Application of Knowledge.** *The organization promotes a life of learning for its faculty, administration, staff, and students by fostering and supporting inquiry, creativity, practice, and social responsibility in ways consistent with its mission.*
- **Criterion Five: Engagement and Services.** As called for by its mission, the organization identifies its constituencies and serves them in ways both value.

