

A new chapter for NMSU

Jan. 7, 2022

After discussions with NMSU leadership, Chancellor Arvizu has decided to transition his administration to a new structure having one leader for both the university and the NMSU system. During the next few weeks, I will be helping the chancellor with this transition, before moving on to take a yearlong sabbatical.

Nearly four years ago, I accepted the NMSU regents' invitation to serve as your president. Since then, I have worked closely with the regents, chancellor, leadership team, faculty, staff and students to make NMSU a better place for everyone. Together, we have accomplished a lot:

1. We've put together an ambitious strategic plan – LEADS 2025 – with wide acceptance from every part of the university and the broader community. This plan has guided every one of our decisions and actions since 2018.
2. We've stabilized student enrollment – the best performance of any New Mexico university during the last few years – while also increasing student success, including retention and graduation rates and improving social mobility. Our students are more engaged with campus life, and they tell us that NMSU feels like home. All this progress helped us improve our [national rankings](#). (Forbes ranked NMSU the best university in the state, while we also improved our rankings in the U.S. News and World Report and for social mobility.)
3. We've enhanced almost every aspect of our research enterprise, and as a result, we experienced increased research expenditures for the third consecutive year, higher graduate student and post-doc numbers, and significant progress toward R1 status.
4. We've strengthened outreach and Extension efforts to our industries, communities and citizens. Our outreach efforts reached into more homes, classrooms and businesses all over the state; our on-campus outreach efforts have been a magnet to people seeking intellectual, artistic and cultural outlets as well as opportunities to cheer on student-athletes.
5. We've now become a member of C-USA, an athletic conference that would allow NMSU to compete in all sports, including football, while receiving significantly increased financial benefits.
6. We've had some of the best years in fundraising, with near record annual donations and the highest ever university endowment.

7. We've intensified efforts to improve the working and learning environment for all students, faculty, and staff. From our robust response to the COVID-19 pandemic, to improvements in compensation and benefits, to collaborative efforts for enhancing inclusion, equity and diversity, NMSU is a better university now than it was in 2018.

Over the years, I have come to deeply appreciate how dedicated the faculty and staff of NMSU are in their drive to help students achieve their educational dreams and aspirations. It has been an honor to work with and serve you as your president since 2018. I wish you all the best as you begin a new chapter at NMSU.

Be Bold. Be Kind. Be Safe.

Go Aggies!

John Floros, Ph.D.

BE BOLD. Shape the future.