



WEDNESDAY COMMUNIQUÉ

July 17, 2013

The “Correct” Outcomes: What metrics should be used to evaluate higher education outcomes? “In February 2011, a group of forward-thinking college and university presidents from a variety of sectors (two-year, four-year, graduate, public, private not-for-profit and for-profit) came together determined to find a limited but powerful set of key metrics (measurements rather than standards) that would provide a more comprehensive picture of higher education for federal and state policymakers.” The group came out recently with [the report proposing five metrics](#): 1) repayment and default rates on student loans, 2) student progression and completion, 3) cost per degree, 4) employment outcomes for graduates, and, finally, 5) student learning outcomes. While the first four are measurable, and data is collected on a national scale, the last, while being the most important, is also the most difficult to measure and to evaluate!

New Mexico Jobs: [A recent article in the Albuquerque Journal](#) reports that New Mexico will be short 183,000 jobs by 2020. “Of the 335,000 jobs expected to be available in 2020 in New Mexico, 127,000 are forecast to require no more than a high school diploma, 119,000 will require at least some college or an associate’s degree, 52,000 will require a bachelor’s degree, and 37,000 will require a master’s degree or better. Nationwide, 65 percent of job vacancies will require some postsecondary education and training, up from 28 percent in 1973. Based on the current levels of educational attainment, all states but New Hampshire, Utah and Wisconsin are projected to have a shortage of workers with the required level of education.”

Foundations of Excellence: After many months of hard work by over two hundred students, faculty, and staff across campus, [the final report from the Foundations of Excellence® in the First College Year Self Study](#) is available. It includes the final reports from each of the nine “dimension” committees, and a plan for improving the first-year experience. Some of the action items have already been started, and many others will be implemented now and over the next several years. UNM has an agreement with the John N. Gardner Institute for Excellence in Undergraduate Education for the first year of implementation, which will include the formation of the First Year Steering Committee. The committee will be charged with creating milestones and assessment plans for the action items that constitute the improvement plan, as well as coordinating its implementation.

Creating the Best Company to Work For: As it turns out, creating the best company is at once both commonsensical and non-existent. [A recent report](#) summarizes the responses of hundreds of executives when asked to describe their ideal organization. “In a nutshell, it’s a company where individual differences are nurtured; information is not suppressed or spun; the company adds value to employees, rather than merely extracting it from them; the organization stands for something meaningful; the work itself is intrinsically rewarding; and there are no stupid rules. Yet, few, if any, organizations possess all six virtues. Several of the attributes run counter to traditional practices and ingrained habits. Others are, frankly, complicated and can be costly to implement. Some conflict with one another. Almost all require leaders to carefully balance competing interests and to rethink how they allocate their time and attention.”

Degree Maps: An internal effort within the Office of Academic Affairs, with strong participation from Enrollment Management, University College, Student Affairs, Office of Student Academic Success, and the University Advisement Center, led to the creation of degree maps for all UNM undergraduate degrees and many of its graduate degrees. While many majors and departments already had created such maps for their incoming and current students, this is the first time that such a tool has been made available online for students interested in studying at UNM, as well as for advisers, faculty, and current students. A beta version of the tool, <http://degrees.unm.edu/>, was created by Associate Provost for Curriculum Greg Heileman and a team of high school, undergraduate, and graduate students. The tool will be formally released in August. Any questions, comments, or other feedback can be sent to provost@unm.edu.

LFC Meeting: The Legislative Finance Committee will be meeting at UNM between Wednesday, July 17, 2013 and Friday, July 19, 2013. UNM will report on Wednesday at 9:30 a.m. on student progress since the funding formula reform and our institutional actions to boost student performance. The meeting will take place in the UNM Student Union Building, Ballroom C. [The full agenda is here.](#)

Supreme Court Fellow: Dawinder S. Sidhu, an assistant professor of law at the University of New Mexico School of Law, [has been selected as the 2013-2014 Supreme Court Fellow](#) assigned to the United States Sentencing Commission. The Supreme Court Fellows Program was created in 1973 by the late Chief Justice Warren E. Burger to provide promising individuals with a first-hand understanding of the federal government, in particular, the judicial branch. In the words of Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr., the program offers “a unique opportunity for exceptional individuals to contribute to the administration of justice at the national level.”

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