



Office of the Chancellor

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DATE: February 25, 2021

TO: NMSU Students and Employees

FROM: Chancellor Dan Arvizu 

SUBJECT: Sanctuary Campus

In the past few days, the Associated Students of New Mexico State University and NMSU's Faculty Senate have each sent notice to our university's administrators, asking for a declaration that would establish NMSU's various locations as sanctuary campuses.

A similar request was made of NMSU's previous administration in 2016. Since the time of that last review, our university's stance has not changed. As was the case five years ago, our university is a proud Hispanic-Serving Institution., with approximately 70 percent of our students having Hispanic heritage. We are a national example in our dedication to student success and social mobility, serving every one of our students equally, regardless of their heritage, their legal status, or any other factors. Our soon-to-be-filled vice president position for equity, inclusion and diversity will further strengthen these efforts.

NMSU deeply values inclusion and access for all people. It's important to note:

- NMSU does not require proof of citizenship as a condition of admission, and does not discriminate in admissions or other services on the basis of immigration status.
- NMSU respects the privacy of all its students, and does not disclose student information, except upon consent of the student or as required by law.
- In accordance with state law, qualifying undocumented students are eligible for in-state tuition and other state-funded financial aid.
- NMSU police and security personnel at our branch campuses do not and will not detain, question or arrest individuals solely because they lack documentation. That's not their role.

Regarding NMSU's relationship with Customs and Border protection, our Criminal Justice program provides degrees as well as highly regarded education for students seeking to learn more about law enforcement, criminal justice and social justice issues. Once those students graduate, many will go on to work in these fields. As a way to help them find employment after graduation, recruiters from various law enforcement agencies across the Southwest will meet with our students, including representatives from Customs and Border Protection.

Like many other issues in our world today, the topic of immigration is fraught with political tensions. I believe the best solution is for this issue to be resolved on a national level by our elected officials. In the meantime, we will continue to focus on ensuring the best possible environment for all our students to be successful.