THE HISTORY OF THE UNIVERSITY

New Mexico State University (NMSU) was founded in 1888 as the state's land-grant university. Through serving the educational needs of New Mexico's diverse population, NMSU has provided comprehensive programs of education, research, extension education and public service. Upon its founding, NMSU was known as Las Cruces College and later renamed New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts. In 1960, the constitution of New Mexico formally recognized the institution as NMSU. Today, NMSU is a major institution of higher education. Throughout its history, the university has preserved many traditions of its land-grant origin while also increasing emphasis on the fine arts, humanities, social and natural sciences.

For more history, points of pride, and the ranking of New Mexico State University please visit the About NMSU (https://www.nmsu.edu/about.html) page of the university website.

Mission
The New Mexico State University System is the state's land-grant university, serving the educational needs of New Mexico's diverse population through comprehensive programs of education, research, extension education, and public service.

Vision
The New Mexico State University System will be a premier university as evidenced by demonstrated and quantifiable excellence in teaching, research, extension, outreach, service, economic development, and community engagement relative to its peer institutions.

To meet our vision of being a premier university, NMSU will be among the top quartile of peer institutions on 80% of measures of academic program and teaching quality, research productivity, and economic benefit to New Mexico. Community colleges will benchmark against all community colleges in New Mexico.

Values
• Diversity and Inclusion
• Accountability
• Excellence
• Discovery
• Engagement

NMSU's Values began as a project completed by the first class of the Aggie Leadership Training Academy (https://training.nmsu.edu/alta/2015aggie-leadership-training-academy). In the fall of 2016, the University Administrative Council started with that work, and members contributed their top five values (http://provost.nmsu.edu/plan/wp-content/uploads/sites/13/2012/07/Values-12_12_16.pdf). This list was compiled from those contributions.

Accreditation
New Mexico State University has been accredited by The Higher Learning Commission (HLC) since 1926. The HLC may be contacted at:

The Higher Learning Commission
230 North LaSalle St.

Suite 7-500
Chicago, IL 60604-1411
Phone: (800) 621-7440

In addition, the university maintains various specialized and professional accreditations, as listed at the beginning of each college section in the catalog, and as found at https://accreditation.nmsu.edu/specialized-accreditation/.

NMSU Graduation and Retention Rates
These rates may be found on the NMSU Institutional Research web site at: http://oia.nmsu.edu/data-reports/oireports/.