



Faculty Senate

c/o Office of the Executive Vice President/Provost
MSC 3445
New Mexico State University
P.O. Box 30001
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001
575-646-2998, fax: 575-646-6334

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Dear Colleagues:

At the Regents Meeting on December 9, 2016, the Regents approved revisions to their six pillars of Vision 2020: enrollment, retention, graduation, placement of graduates in employment opportunities or graduate school, research, and, alumni giving. One of the key performance indicators associated with placement is experiential learning, and the Regents are committed to working with faculty to develop a strategy to ensure that every student who graduates from NMSU participates in at least one “learning by doing” experience. A variety of different activities will allow students to fulfill this requirement – paid or unpaid internships or co-op opportunities, research internships, medical or scientific practicums, service learning activities, technical developer internships, marketing internships, or business services internships. Our early research indicates that a good number of our students currently participate in a qualifying experience. Our future efforts will help all students have this type of experience that is so valuable to placement of our students in employment opportunities and/or graduate school.

Internships and work experience, in general, are highly valued by employers, and experiential education can lead to deeper understanding of content by requiring students to practice what they have learned and to apply the learning in complex and unfamiliar situations. The enhanced learning associated with experiential education is not the only benefit of the experiential approach to learning. Service learning, which can be incorporated into virtually any discipline and has grown rapidly since the 1970s, reinforces the civic role of educated citizens in our democracy and binds students and the University more closely to our local community.

We will begin the dialogue about experiential learning at the next meeting of the Faculty Senate to be held on January 12, 2017. We look forward to a lively discussion that considers the benefits of experiential learning, how pervasive it already is among our students, and the different forms it might take in our diverse array of degree programs. We also invite all faculty to share ideas on how best to meet this goal with Senators in their respective units.

With best wishes for a safe and prosperous New Year,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Christopher Brown'.

Christopher Brown
Chair of the Faculty Senate

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Daniel Howard'.

Daniel Howard
Provost