



## NORTHERN New Mexico College / HLC ACCREDITATION NEWSLETTER



### CRITERION 4 Mock Visit questions to practice for the Accreditation visit:

1. How do we ensure that the budget meets the Mission, Core Values, or Strategic Plan for proposed spending of resources?

Hint: [Mission/Vision/Strategic Plan](#).

2. How are assessment results, program review recommendations, and strategic planning goals taken into consideration during the budget decision-making process?

Hint: Strategic Plan, see page 2.

3. Other than student academic achievement, what other processes are well-functioning in the evaluation of institutional effectiveness? Can you share examples?

Hint: [Institutional Research Surveys](#).

4. What kinds of changes are taking place within the College? Do you see these changes as positive or negative? How will these changes impact NNMC?

Examples: New programs, enrollment increases, DEI, loss of grants.

5. Is there equity among departments relative to funding, staffing, space, and support services?

Hint: Budget planning processes.



# HLC CRITERION 4: SUSTAINABILITY, INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS, RESOURCES & PLANNING

SUMMARY of NNMC Assurance Argument:  
CRITERION 4 / Sustainability:

Criterion 4 demonstrates NNMC's philosophy that resource decisions and activities reflect Strategic Direction objectives, aligned to the College's mission. Its organizational structures reflect the awareness and understanding of current resources, organizational changes, and emerging opportunities that influence NNMC's mission.

NNMC is dedicated to responsible financial management and proactive cost control. It has integrated sustainability into its strategic and operational framework.

Through various initiatives and successful grants, NNMC aims to enhance long-term institutional resilience, diversify revenue sources, and manage costs, all while maintaining a high quality of education. Each of these efforts not only addresses present-day challenges but also lays a foundation for future generations.

NNMC has leveraged its funding to strengthen core institutional capacities that appeal to external funders and partners, thus enhancing its ability to attract future philanthropic support. ■

### HLC Criterion 4 : Sustainability

The institution's resources, structures, policies, procedures and planning enable it to fulfill its mission, improve the quality of its educational programs, and respond to future challenges and opportunities.

#### 4.A. Effective Administrative Structures

The institution's administrative structures are effective and facilitate collaborative processes such as shared governance; data-informed decision making; and engagement with internal and external constituencies as appropriate.

#### 4.B. Resource Base and Sustainability

The institution's financial and personnel resources effectively support its current operations. The institution's financial management balances short-term needs with long-term commitments and ensures its ongoing sustainability.

#### 4.C. Planning for Quality Improvement

The institution engages in systematic strategic planning for quality improvement. It relies on data, integrating its insights from enrollment forecasts, financial capacity, student learning assessment, institutional operations and the external environment. ■

### COMING UP!



**OCT 20**  
ASSURANCE  
ARGUMENT LOCK



**NOV 5**  
CAMPUS  
CLEANUP



**NOV 17**  
SITE  
VISIT



# NNMC STRATEGIC PLAN 2028 / SOARING TO NEW HEIGHTS

## MISSION STATEMENT

Northern New Mexico College is an inclusive, student-centered teaching and learning community, dedicated to excellence, empowering students, and transforming lives.

## VISION STATEMENT

As a Hispanic- and Indigenous-serving institution — sustained by place, culture and innovation — Northern is a beacon of higher education for all students, igniting minds to create vibrant futures.

## STRATEGIC PILLARS

### Transformational Student Experience:

We journey together with our students through a positive, proactive, personalized experience and become partners in their dreams.

### Academic Excellence:

We teach with spirit and heart to provide a culturally responsive, 21st-century learning environment that sparks critical thinking and maximizes intellectual achievement.

### Organizational Excellence:

We act with shared purpose and responsibility – focused on innovation and continuous improvement – committed to student success and empathetic, engaged leadership and expertise.

### Strategic Partnerships:

We build partnerships that enhance student and institutional success and community well-being.

## STRATEGIC GOAL 1: Design and deliver exceptional services and support to ensure student success.

### OBJECTIVES:

- Identify and act upon specific barriers to and opportunities for student access and success.
- Create a targeted communication system for students that fosters success throughout their journey from application through graduation.

## STRATEGIC GOAL 2: Foster a teaching and learning environment that promotes a culture of belonging and responds to the needs of all students.

### OBJECTIVES:

- Develop and implement processes that foster an inclusive and supportive educational environment, promoting student growth academically, socially, and emotionally.
- Ensure the same quality of education for all students regardless of modality.
- Improve and sustain co-curricular assessment development.

## STRATEGIC GOAL 3: Provide structured pathways that prepare students for advanced educational opportunities, meaningful careers, and service to community.

### OBJECTIVES:

- Develop more articulation agreements with community and other four-year colleges.
- Expand local and state workforce development partnerships.
- Increase internship and community service learning opportunities.

## STRATEGIC GOAL 4: Invest in our people, and integrated enterprise-level operations, systems and technology.

### OBJECTIVES:

- Foster a positive, supportive campus culture, encouraging open communication, teamwork, recognition, professional growth, and work-life balance.
- Build upon and strengthen a culture of shared governance and shared responsibility.
- Modernize, integrate, and optimize data and technology systems.
- Maintain exceptional financial and resource stewardship.

## STRATEGIC GOAL 5: Strengthen Northern's visibility, brand, value and impact.

### OBJECTIVES:

- Strategically increase sustainable enrollment.
- Develop a comprehensive communication and marketing strategy through shared knowledge and responsibility.
- Advance understanding, engagement, and collaboration among our communities and stakeholders.

## STRATEGIC PLANNING TERMS

**PILLARS:** key areas or priorities that an organization focuses on to achieve its long-term vision, providing a framework to ensure all efforts align with the vision.

**GOALS:** broad, long-term aims that represent what an organization wants to achieve, providing clear direction and inspiration.

**OBJECTIVES:** specific, measurable, achievable, relevant, and time-bound (SMART) targets that help achieve the goals.

**ACTION ITEMS:** concrete, detailed tasks that contribute to the objectives.