New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
Strategic Plan
2015-2020

Executive Summary

Strategic Plan Overview
A Strategic Plan Committee (SPC) was formed in late 2013, with faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members. The committee met biweekly throughout 2014 to create vision, mission, and value statements and strategies for continued growth and development of the university. Based on committee discussion and input from the NMT community in town-hall meetings, the committee identified seven strategic priorities with associated goals, objectives, and tasks to pursue over the next five years, as follows (1) streamline communication and business processes; (2) build collaborations as a community of scholars; (3) expand funding opportunities; (4) ensure intentional and planned quality growth; (5) support student success; (6) develop and exploit technology and infrastructure; (7) cultivate transdisciplinary education and research.

NMT Vision, Mission, Values

Vision: New Mexico Tech aspires to be a preeminent community of scholars dedicated to research, education, and innovation – advancing science, technology, engineering, and mathematics – to meet the challenges of tomorrow. We will drive innovation and education through transdisciplinary collaborations.

Mission: New Mexico Tech serves the state and beyond through education, research, and service, focused in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics. Involved faculty educate a diverse student body in rigorous and collaborative programs, preparing scientists and engineers for the future. Our innovative and interdisciplinary research expands the reach of humanity’s knowledge and capabilities. Researchers, faculty, and students work together to solve real world problems. Our economic development and technology transfer benefit the economy of the state and create opportunities for success. We serve the public through applied research, professional development, and teacher education, benefitting the people of New Mexico.

Values: New Mexico Tech has defined the following enduring, guiding principles for its continued growth and development as a quality STEM institution of higher education.

Research: Groundbreaking transdisciplinary research that generates knowledge and innovative design for science and engineering and solves challenging and complex problems, driven by a relentless commitment and focus by faculty, students, and research staff.

Integrity: Maintaining the highest standards of academic and professional ethics, fairness, and honesty in all endeavors, and being responsible members of the NMT community.

Creativity: Creativity is integral to all our teaching, research, and business processes and is driven by curiosity, adaptability, and resourcefulness, requiring imagination, vision, risk-taking, and diligence.

Lifelong Learning: Lifelong learning skills are developed through a rigorous curriculum, a challenging educational experience with a foundation of critical thinking and problem solving, invigorating research and significant professional development that prepares students, faculty, and staff for continuing individual and career growth.

Excellence: High quality education and research drives excellence in all aspects of our mission.
Economic Prosperity and Technological Development: STEM education, research, technical assistance, and technology transfer are drivers of economic prosperity and technological development in the state, nation, and the world; continuous faculty, researcher, and staff professional development programs and outreach initiatives for underrepresented communities to pursue STEM careers are hallmarks for the future.

Integrated Planning and Decision Making: Openness, fairness, collaboration, and stakeholder input in university operations is driven by accurate and reliable data made available to the campus community.

Collegiality and Collaboration: Positive energy, performance, and support from a collegial and collaborative environment, contributes to the advancement of our students, our colleagues, and our institution.

NMT Strategic Priorities and Goals

The following seven Strategic Priorities provide the focus for New Mexico Tech’s Strategic Plan. Tech is committed to addressing these seven priorities in the plan; however, the length of time and extent to which these priorities can be accomplished will be dependent on funding availability and securing administrative and/or Board approval when appropriate.

Strategic Priority: Streamline Communication and Business Processes

In order to improve organizational performance and contribute to the success of the strategic plan, the university will streamline internal and external communications and update business processes leading to broad-based participation in decision-making; expanded centralized communications; five-year resource allocation planning; and modernized business practices.

Strategic Priority: Build Collaborations as a Community of Scholars

In order to integrate new faculty, researchers, students, and staff into the university community, NMT will support and encourage them to grow, learn, and innovate, and in so doing spread their expertise and ideas through the New Mexico Tech community and outward. Throughout this cycle, individuals will feel they are part of the broader New Mexico Tech family and that their individual success is enhanced by the success of the community as a whole. This priority strives to foster a sense of connection to NMT; develop incentives to innovate and promote excellence; find new opportunities through outreach activities to public organizations and industry; and enhance security measures on the campus.

Strategic Priority: Expand Funding Opportunities

During a period where record numbers of students are enrolling in higher education institutions across the country and specifically at NMT, New Mexico state appropriations have followed the national trend with significant funding/revenue cuts, resulting in significant obstacles for the university’s growth and development. This priority is focused on supporting the university’s teaching and research mission through examining NMT’s tuition structure as a key revenue source; expanding the role of the Office of Advancement; expanding funding opportunities for basic and applied research; and building a culture of entrepreneurship.

Strategic Priority: Ensure Intentional and Planned Quality Growth

Between 2010 and 2013, NMT enrollment has grown from 1,652 degree-seeking students to 1,886 degree-seeking students, while budgets have remained mostly flat. This priority seeks to grow the institution in an intentional, planned, and controlled way, with appropriate resource allocation and consideration of the
needs of the entire campus community focused on growing undergraduate and graduate enrollment, retention, and success; and strengthening and growing sponsored research.

**Strategic Priority: Support Student Success**

Student success is central to the university’s mission and vision, requiring continuous improvement and enhancement of student support services focused on improving undergraduate student retention, academic support, and research opportunities; enhancing assessment of student learning and program reviews; and graduate student retention and success.

**Strategic Priority: Develop and Exploit Technology and Infrastructure**

Effective technology planning and organization, as well as utilization of current technology, is critical to advancing the university’s mission through improved technology planning and productivity; streamlined and reorganized technology funding; and support for data-driven decision-making.

**Strategic Priority: Cultivate Transdisciplinary Education and Research**

Transdisciplinary education and research integrates the methods, theories, techniques, and perspectives of multiple disciplines to develop new approaches to solve complex, real-world challenges. Embracing a transdisciplinary approach can stimulate creativity and productivity, while still maintaining rigor and strength of individual disciplines, leading to better prepared students who will be leaders in multi-disciplinary problem solving and research. This will be accomplished through increasing transdisciplinary academic programs; increasing transdisciplinary research programs; and developing and sustaining transdisciplinary support mechanisms.