

With the best interest of the university in mind, the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMT) Board of Regents, NMT President Dr. Stephen G. Wells, and the NMT Research Foundation offered an updated and improved Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) to the New Mexico Tech Alumni Association (NMTAA) on February 27, 2018. In consultation with the NMTAA, NMT determined that the proposed new MOA was necessary in order to (1) further strengthen a working relationship among the university, the NMTAA, and the NMT Research Foundation and (2) to ensure a shared vision and common goals among the three entities that were all focused on the success of NMT, along with its faculty and its students. After reviewing best practices among universities and their supporting entities and after consulting with numerous alumni over the preceding months, NMT offered the proposed new MOA to the NMTAA to provide more support to the NMTAA; to create a functional working relationship among NMT, the New Mexico Tech Foundation, and the NMTAA; and to help achieve the vision and goals of NMT's administration. Under the proposed new MOA, the NMTAA would have remained a separate entity, however, for financial accounting and auditing purposes would have become a component unit of NMT (such as the NMT Research Foundation or the NMT University Research Park Corporation which exist to benefit NMT). In addition, the new MOA would bring in the NMT Research Foundation as a key participant to strengthen relations and align the fundraising goals of the University and the NMTAA. In January of 2018 the NMT Board of Regents and NMT Research Foundation approved the draft MOA to be presented to the NMTAA.

Since presenting the new MOA to the NMTAA on February 27, 2018, the NMTAA has responded that "any substantive discussion" would be "premature" and that the draft agreement "proposes a variety of significant changes which appear to alter the fundamental aspects of the NMTAA purpose, operation, and organization." It was clarified that under the proposed MOA, the NMTAA would remain a separate 501(c)3 entity, but would become a component unit for the benefit of the university. The NMTAA offered to create a committee to address current issues, ways of working more effectively, and improving relations under the 2014 MOA. Questions raised by President Wells about the charge of the proposed committee as well as including members from the NMT Research Foundation were never addressed. Such correspondence and social media exchanges indicate that the NMTAA wishes to focus on remaining an "independent" entity and addressing what is the "most beneficial course for the Association."

On June 29, 2018, the NMT Board of Regents unanimously voted to exercise the option provided in the 2014 MOA between NMT and the NMTAA to terminate that MOA. In light of the Regents' vote, NMT President Wells sent a letter to NMTAA President Kenneth Silsbee to give notice that, pursuant to Section 4.5 of the 2014 MOA, NMT was exercising its option to terminate the 2014 MOA effective as of September 3, 2018.

Termination of the 2014 MOA is not about the alumni, which are viewed by all as a remarkable asset of the university. Rather, it was about the NMTAA organization itself which has existed over two university administrations and which has not moved the needle in its history to help NMT achieve its vision and mission, nor provide the collaborative effort needed to support the university and its students and faculty in measurable ways. The proposed MOA (a) was carefully crafted to reflect best practices among a university, a foundation, and an alumni base, and (b) was prepared to bring the NMTAA, the NMT Research Foundation, and NMT into an

appropriate and functional relationship to help the university move forward. The draft was completed with the help of university legal counsel and supported unanimously by the Board of Regents and the NMT Research Foundation. Based upon NMTAA responses, it has become evident that the purpose of the NMTAA is not in alignment with the vision of NMT, the Board of Regents and the NMT Research Foundation, which is to provide the level of support to the university, faculty and students so that all can excel.

NMT is building the type of broad support to carry the university into the next decade and beyond. This endeavor requires the strongest collaboration among the NMT Research Foundation, the university and its alumni base.

President Wells came to NMT with a vision and has been steadily accomplishing his goals with the Regents' and University's support. A strong focus on Tech's alumni has been a priority from day one. Over the past two years he has worked with the NMT Research Foundation to strengthen NMT's Office for Advancement and Alumni Relations. Five new staff members have been hired, including a new position of Alumni Relations Manager. A new Alumni Relations program, housed in the NMT Office for Advancement and Alumni Relations, will be rolling out new outreach efforts, new programs and will be more visible than ever before. Our alumni are the pride of NMT and NMT is proud to finally have the ability to pay them the homage they deserve.

You'll be hearing more about these efforts in the weeks and months to come. In the meantime, the most effective way to stay up to date with upcoming alumni events, links to national and local news stories, and other NMT-specific items of interest is via our Alumni Interaction Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/NMTAlumniInteraction/>

President Wells continues to have a larger vision for NMT which involves strengthening our support for students, faculty, and alumni. He views our Tech family as intricately entwined with each facet instrumental to the ongoing success and growth of NMT. It is his expectation that the new Alumni Relations program will demonstrate his high regard for our esteemed alumni. Your opinion matters. Please don't hesitate to reach out to Colleen Foster (colleen.foster@nmt.edu), Director of the Office for Advancement and Alumni Relations, with questions.