



**NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY BOARD OF REGENTS  
AND DACC ADVISORY BOARD**

**AGENDA**

**December 11, 2025 at 10:30 am**

Doña Ana Community College, Cholla Hall (Soundstage)  
2400 Film Street on Arrowhead Park  
Las Cruces, NM

**MINUTES**

**A. Introductions (10 minutes), Chair Ammu Devasthali**

The meeting was called to order at 10:45 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves, including members of the DACC Advisory Board and the NMSU Board of Regents.

The following members attended the meeting:

**Regents of New Mexico State University**

Dr. Ammu Devasthali, Chair  
Ms. Deborah Romero, Vice Chair  
Mr. Christopher Salcedo, Secretary/Treasurer  
Ms. Marisol Olivas, Member

**DACC Advisory Board**

Bob Wofford, President (LCPS)  
Patrick Nolan, Member (LCPS)

**NMSU System Officials**

Dr. Valerio Ferme, NMSU System President  
Dr. Mónica Torres, NMSU System Community College Chancellor

**B. Discussion Items**

**1. Request to discuss Dual Credit opportunities at DACC**

The discussion was led by Bob Wofford, who requested this item to discuss expanding the relationship regarding dual credit and the Career Technical Education (CTE) center.

**Current Status:**

- Dr. Torres noted that enrollment of Las Cruces Public Schools (LCPS) students in dual credit dropped from roughly 1,200 to 800 students, partly due to capacity constraints.
- Historically, the agreement limited dual credit to CTE courses rather than General Education to avoid supplanting high school curriculum.

- Current capacity issues exist in welding and automotive programs, with classes fully booked from 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM.

**Strategic Planning:**

- Mr. Wofford emphasized unity in capital outlay projects, specifically for the CTE center, to improve funding chances with the legislature.
- Dr. Torres is scheduled to meet with the LCPS Superintendent in January to reassert the priority of this collaboration.
- A public school collaboration committee has been relaunched by Associate VP Shannon Bradley.

**Infrastructure Needs:**

- Discussion highlighted the need for fast transportation/transit between campuses (e.g., Gadsden to Sunland Park) to improve access to CTE labs not available at all locations.

Mr. Nolan noted that while the design and curriculum for the CTE center are in progress, there is a \$2.5 million gap in capital outlay requests.

**2. Workforce development/collaboration opportunities with the new data centers in southern Doña Ana County**

The discussion focused on "Project Jupiter," the Meta facility clearing land near Highway 404, and the growth of manufacturing in Santa Teresa.

**Workforce Needs:**

- Project Jupiter is expected to provide 750 ongoing jobs.
- Required skills identified in job postings include cybersecurity, electronics technicians, water technology, maintenance, plumbing, and electricity.
- Dr. Torres noted that Meta will be within 10 minutes of the Chaparral campus and 20 minutes of the Gadsden campus.

**Challenges & Community Concerns:**

- Water: Sunland Park faces serious water quality and availability issues<sup>24</sup>. Project Jupiter proposals include a desalination plant to treat brackish water.
- Housing: There is a significant need for affordable housing to accommodate the workforce.
- Energy: Concerns regarding emissions and the construction of natural gas power plants were noted.

**DACC Response:**

- Current non-credit training at Sunland Park includes forklift certification and a truck driving academy.
- Expansion of the Sunland Park branch is necessary, potentially doubling its size to meet industrial park

demands.

Modest renovations (4,000 sq ft) are planned via the state GEO bond.

### **3. Transfer credits as outlined in Article V.C of the Operating Agreement Between NMSU and Doña Ana Community College**

#### **Issue Identification:**

- President Ferme raised concerns that credits from community colleges (specifically Nursing) are not transferring smoothly to the main campus, despite operating agreements.
- Students reported having to retake courses or sit for exams because their associate-level credits were not accepted.
- Dr. Torres highlighted "classism" in higher education, where university structures may undervalue community college instruction.

#### **Proposed Actions:**

- **System Analysis:** The Board agreed on the need for a broad analysis of transfer gaps and registrar rules<sup>34343434</sup>.
- **NASH Project:** Dr. Torres, Dr. Val Ferme, and others are applying for a National Association of System Heads (NASH) project. This year-long seminar focuses on removing both technical (bureaucratic) and cultural barriers to transfer.
- **Co-Enrollment:** A new project between DACC and the College of ACES will launch in the fall to align sequencing, allowing students to finish degrees more efficiently.

#### **"Reverse Transfer" Opportunities:**

- Regent Olivas suggested facilitating opportunities for main campus students to take certificate courses (e.g., welding) at DACC.
- Dr. Torres confirmed that while "anti-swirl" policies had previously limited this, a committee is currently reviewing capacity to potentially allow NMSU students to access these trades again.

#### **C. Adjournment, Chair Ammu Devasthali**

Chair Devasthali thanked the attendees and expressed optimism for collaboration in 2026.

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

**Meeting Minutes Approved on February 18, 2026 by the New Mexico State University Board of Regents.**



Ammu Devasthali  
Board of Regents Chair



Christopher T. Saucedo  
Board of Regents Secretary/Treasurer