

## Accreditation: Special Emphasis

### *Foundations of Excellence - The Findings*

NMSU participated in the Foundations of Excellence® in the First College Year (FoE) as part of a **commitment to improve student success**. As a special emphasis of the HLC self-study, information and initiatives on the first year are integrated throughout the criterion chapters. In addition, chapter 7 of the self-study report focuses on the FoE process, the ten recommended Priority Action Items, and implementation status.

NMSU's FoE self-study **process began in Fall 2005** and included 60 faculty, staff, administrators and students as members of an FoE Steering Committee, Task Force and Dimension Review Teams. In addition, more than 75 percent of teaching faculty and staff responded to a faculty/staff survey and about 40 percent of the Fall 2005 first-time freshman cohort responded to a student survey.

The FoE Task Force agreed that three of the 10 Priority Action Items form a foundation for the process of enhancing the experiences of our first-year students. The Task Force has recommended that the university develop a **philosophy of the first year**, develop an **organizational entity to oversee/manage the first-year experience**, and **incorporate assessment activities** into all first-year initiatives.

View the complete Special Emphasis chapter at <http://accreditation.nmsu.edu>

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Self Study 2008

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