

August 9, 2024

Dr. Derek Moore  
President  
New Mexico Junior College  
5317 Lovington Hwy.  
Hobbs, New Mexico 88240

Dear President Moore,

This letter is accompanied by the Quality Initiative Report (QIR) Review form completed by a peer review panel. New Mexico Junior College's QIR showed genuine effort and has been accepted by the Commission. The attached reviewer evaluation contains a rationale for this outcome.

Peer reviewers evaluate all the QIRs based on the genuine effort of the institution, the seriousness of the undertaking, the significance of scope and impact of the work, the genuineness of the commitment to the initiative, and adequate resource provision.

If you have questions about the QIR reviewer information, please contact either Kathy Bijak ([kbijak@hlcommission.org](mailto:kbijak@hlcommission.org)) or Pat Newton-Curran ([pnewton@hlcommission.org](mailto:pnewton@hlcommission.org)).

***Higher Learning Commission***

## Open Pathway Quality Initiative Report

### Panel Review and Recommendation Form

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#### *Review Process*

The Quality Initiative panel review process evaluates the institution's effort in undertaking the Quality Initiative Proposal approved by HLC. The Quality Initiative process encourages institutions to take risks, innovate, take on a tough challenge, or pursue a yet unproven strategy or hypothesis. Thus, failure of an initiative to achieve its goals is acceptable. An institution may learn much from such failure. What is not acceptable is failure of the institution to pursue the initiative with genuine effort. Genuineness of effort, not success of the initiative, constitutes the focus of the Quality Initiative review and serves as its sole point of evaluation.

#### *Submission Instructions*

Submit the final report as a Word document to HLC at [hlcommission.org/upload](https://hlcommission.org/upload). Select "Pathways/Quality Initiatives" from the list of submission options to ensure the report is sent to the correct HLC staff member. The file name for the report should follow this format: QI Report Review <Name of Institution>.

**Name of Institution:** New Mexico Junior College

**State:** NM

**Institutional ID:** 1502

**Reviewers (names, titles, institutions):**

Dr. Peter Bemski, Dean (ret'd) Northcentral University

Dr. Jodi Koslow Martin, Vice President of Enrollment Management and Student Affairs, Triton College (IL)

**Date:** 8/8/24

### I. Quality Initiative Review

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- The institution demonstrated its seriousness of the undertaking.
  
- The institution demonstrated that the initiative had scope and impact.

- The institution demonstrated a commitment to and engagement in the initiative.
- The institution demonstrated adequate resource provision.

## II. Recommendation

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- The panel confirms genuine effort on the part of the institution.
- The panel cannot confirm genuine effort on the part of the institution.

## III. Rationale (required)

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New Mexico Junior College embarked on a journey to improve student success by way of faculty development. The panel confirms the College put forth an effort to systematically advance professional development among faculty as way to improve student outcomes. Within the QI, the College had an ambitious goal of increasing the percentage of students who receive A, B, and C grades over D, F, and W grades by 5 points. Within the report, the College describes the comprehensive planning and implementation of workshops and resources to improve instruction. The outcome of these efforts was an increase in student success as defined in the QI of 3.6%. While it may be challenging to directly align faculty development with this outcome, the increased student success is evidence that the QI raised the priority of quality teaching across campus and, as a result, good things happened.

Within the QI, the College made a good decision to assess student outcomes relative to content areas. It is evident students demonstrated an increase in skill building in key general education areas. While these assessments demonstrate extra support is needed in some places, it may be necessary to consider how best to support students beyond the classroom to help students succeed in these specific subject areas.

Overall, the panel applauds the work of faculty and administrators for placing student learning in the classroom as the focus of its QI. Using the CCSSE (and looking forward to the 2025 results) along with using focus groups with Deans, demonstrates how the College places student voices at the heart of its work. The report clearly demonstrates the effort behind the QI. The report also illustrates a genuine effort to support student success in all parts of the campus community.