



Higher Education Facilities Gross Receipts Tax Fact Sheet

- On March 4, 2008, voters in Rio Rancho passed by a 63% margin the following:

“Shall the City of Rio Rancho impose a one-fourth (1/4) of one percent (1%) Municipal Higher Education Facilities Gross Receipts Tax with revenue from the tax to be used for (1) acquisition, construction, renovation or improvement of facilities of a four-year post-secondary public educational institution located in the municipality and acquisition of or improvements to land for those facilities or (2) payment of municipal higher education facilities gross receipts tax revenue bonds?”
- With the passage of this initiative, the University of New Mexico committed to build and operate a new full-service campus (UNM West) in Rio Rancho’s downtown City Center on the more than 200 acres of land they have in the City Center area.
- The first building as part of the UNM West campus opened in January 2010 and began offering services to students.
- Per a memorandum of understanding signed in 2009 between the city of Rio Rancho and UNM, from Higher Education Gross Receipts Tax revenue the city collects it will: 1) provide \$868,424 to UNM for initial infrastructure costs; and 2) provide \$1,513,000 annually for five years to UNM for initial building/infrastructure costs.
- Following the conclusion of the five-year commitment in Fiscal Year 2015, Higher Education Facilities Gross Receipts Tax revenue will be made available for additional university facilities and related infrastructure located at UNM West subject to agreement between the city of Rio Rancho and UNM.
- The Higher Education Facilities Gross Receipts Tax cannot be imposed for a period longer than 20 years.
- The one-fourth of one percent gross receipts tax for higher education translates to an additional 25-cent cost for every \$100 spent on goods and services in Rio Rancho.
- The UNM West Rio Rancho campus is currently serving more than 1,000 students.
- The Central New Mexico Community College (CNM) Rio Rancho campus in the City Center and UNM West implemented a number of 2+2 transfer programs. Students can pursue Associate Degrees at CNM-Rio Rancho in Business, Nursing and Elementary Education/Special Education and transfer seamlessly to a corresponding Bachelor degree program at UNM West. In addition, 2+2 transfer programs are also available from both campuses including Communication/Journalism, Criminology, Psychology and Sociology.

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