

UNM West in Rio Rancho, NM -- a Synopsis

Historical –

- UNM West has offered classes, both credit and non-credit, in RR since 1990.
- Population of RR has increased from 10,000+ in 1980 to approx. 82,500 in 2009.
- Population projections for RR estimate increase to approx. 96,800 by 2014.
- There are three high schools in RR now, with the new one opening in 2009 about a mile from the new City Center, UNM West, and CNM RR Campuses. Other high schools are in the area, including Bernalillo.
- Central New Mexico Community College (formerly T-VI) built a new 70,000 sq. ft. campus on Albuquerque's West Side in 2004. This campus is in Bernalillo County and adjacent to RR city boundaries. Associate degree graduates wanting to complete their bachelors and masters degrees need a university conveniently located nearby.
- Enrollments at UNM West continued to grow, from 305 in 2000-2001 to 1,650 in 2007-08. Enrollments in ITV and Distance Learning courses also increased.
- Serious research concerning development of a campus in RR began in 2005 with surveys of various constituent groups, culminating in a Community Charrette in November, 2006. Results of the Charrette were supportive of developing a UNM campus in RR.
- UNM acquired approximately 220 acres in 2006 near the RR City Center to develop a campus. Master planning with city, Sandoval County, and other community groups began. CNM acquired approximately 40 acres in the same area of the City Center.
- In August 2007, UNM and CNM signed a "2+2 partnership" agreement which enables students to move seamlessly between the two institutions to complete a degree. Initial agreements with business management, University Studies, and General Studies were signed.
- An RFP was released for Master Planning efforts in 2007.
- Also in 2007, HB 374 passed, authorizing Municipal Higher Education Facilities Gross Receipts Tax.
- March 2008, gross receipts tax passed by Rio Rancho voters. Tax generates approx. \$7.5 million over 5 years.
- Fall 2008 first semester of offering almost exclusively upper division and graduate classes as stipulated in agreement signed with CNM in August 2007; enrollments dipped to 484; spring 09 enrollments were 733; fall 09 enrollments were 593.
- 2009 Legislative session--HB 354 passed, approved establishment of UNM West in RR.
- 2008-2009 planning for and construction of first building at UNM West, 42,000 sq. ft., general purpose classroom building on 8.5 acre tract. City of Rio Rancho contributed approx. \$860K from the GRT for infrastructure work. Building space

- includes study areas, office space, learning commons, small bookstore and food service area. Space for a clinic to be operated by the UNM Medical Group included.
- Early 2009 Draft Master Plan completed; included with other UNM planning projects; Regents ratification in process.
 - August 2009 BBER report prepared for Health Sciences Center completed; reinforced community support and capacity for UNM presence in Rio Rancho and Sandoval County.
 - December 2009 Hewlett Packard opened in the Rio Rancho City Center.
 - 2008-2010 planning for and beginning of Sandoval Regional Medical Center construction.

Today and Future –

- UNM West opened Jan. 4, 2010, with spring 2010 semester beginning Jan. 19. Spring enrollments were 582. Fall 2010 enrollments are 508.
- Courses are offered on 8-week and 16-week basis. Also offer several Friday and Saturday only classes. Intersession classes are held in January and early June.
- UNM Medical Group opened Rapid Care Clinic on 2nd floor of UNM West in summer 2010.
- CNM in Rio Rancho opened Aug., 2010; facility is approx. 62,000 sq. ft.
- Three “2+2” programs between UNM West and CNM RR are offered in business management, nursing and elementary education (special ed. concentration).
- Current budget for UNM West is approx. \$1.3 million; generated from tuition and fees revenues. Working with UNM to develop 5-10 year operational and academic plans. Enrollment projections will show 3-5% increases each year.
- 2010-2012 construction of SRMC; scheduled to open Aug. 2012.
- Campus build out will continue over the next 20-30 years, with target enrollment of approximately 12,000 students.
- UNM West looks forward to future campus development, planning with UNM colleges and various community constituents including Intel, Hewlett-Packard, new industry, the national labs, the NM legislature and other state agencies, and the area Pueblos to address the educational and economic development needs of the area and state. Collaboration with other NM universities will also be pursued, making best use of resources and the opportunities afforded by the unique situation being created in the Rio Rancho City Center area.