



New Mexico Highlands University & Boerne Independent School District Accessibility Support Initiative

PURPOSE STATEMENT

New Mexico Highlands University is designated as a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI) and is striving for a designation as a Native American Serving Institution while at the same time attempting to improve historically low Native American student enrollment. Boerne Independent School District (BISD) has traditionally had a high enrollment of limited-income students of color. To address these challenges, BISD and NMHU are initiating a joint education initiative to increase access and completion and reduce costs for students desiring to attend NMHU.

NMHU INITIATIVE EXPECTATIONS:

- NMHU will begin to show a 5% improvement in the enrollment of low-income students of color, explicitly increasing limited-income, Hispanic, and Native American students; and
- BISD will begin to show a 5% improvement in limited-income, Hispanic, and Native- American students' enrollment into 4-year postsecondary education institutions.

BOERNE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT BACKGROUND & TIMELINE

BOERNE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT prepares low-income, first-generation high school students for college. In order to achieve an annual goal of 40% 4-year college enrollment for its graduates and to improve persistence and completion to 60%, partnerships with colleges play a critical role in supporting the achievement of this goal.

Automatic Eligibility for Admission into NMHU

- Students with a 3.0 Cumulative GPA at the end of their Junior Year can be automatically eligible to be admitted to NMHU.
- Students must OPT-IN to participate, and the students do NOT need to complete an application for admission to NMHU. (Automatic admittance occurs with opt-in by 12/1) (NMHU will develop the OPT-IN form, the form is designed to identify NMHU as their postsecondary school of choice)
- Students must apply to the NMHU Scholarship Foundation (HSF).
- DACA, Undocumented, and students on VISAs are eligible to participate.
- NHMU will work to achieve a 50% 6-year graduation rate for BISD students.

FAFSA

- A FAFSA must be completed for all eligible admits by 12/31. NMHU will provide staff support to assist families through the FAFSA Process.

Highlands Scholarship Foundation

- Students must apply to the HSF by 12/31 of their senior year.

NMHU Admissions Process

- The application process (housing, meal plan, orientation schedules, institutional aid applications, etc.) must be completed by 12/31 of the student's senior year.

NMHU ADMISSIONS

NMHU Automatic Eligibility for Admission and Scholarship

- NMHU is responsible for automatically admitting eligible students with a 3.0 Cumulative GPA at the end of their Junior Year.

- NMHU will provide campus tours to cohort students before high school graduation.
- Students cannot have a suspension on record within the academic year.

NMHU and BOERNE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP & FINANCIAL SUPPORT

NMHU Automatic Financial Aid packaging

- For an out-of-state resident, tuition, room, and board costs at NMHU for AY 23/24 are \$20,596.00.
- BISD students will receive an automatic NMHU yearly institutional (grant/scholarship-based) aid award
- Over four years, the \$15,914.00 yearly award of the institutional scholarship is not based on family income.
- 15 passed credits. and a 3.0 GPA is required for continued eligibility
 - BISD students will receive a minimum of \$6,720 yearly work-study; this award is not based on family income.
 - Pell-eligible (based on family income) students will have approximately \$7,363 to help cover yearly living expenses.

NMHU Yearly Cost-Residential	NMHU Yearly Award	NMHU Yearly Work-Study Award		Pell	Total Student Cost
\$ 20,596.00	\$ 9,194.00	\$ 6,720.00		\$ 6,345.00	\$ (3,663.00)
NMHU Yearly Cost-Residential	NMHU Award	NMHU Work-Study Award		Non-Pell	Total Student Cost
\$ 20,596.00	\$ 9,194.00	\$ 6,720.00		\$ -	\$ 2,682.00

NMHU Deposit Waivers and Deferment.

- NMHU agrees to waive or defer deposits for BISD students.

NMHU Preferential Housing in Viles & Crimmin Residence Hall

- The residence hall that houses BISD students has unique, multicultural, and modern residence hall facilities.
- BISD students will receive support from a Peer Mentor, a Student Success Coach, and a residence hall assistant (RA).

NMHU and BOERNE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SCHOLARSHIP DATA SHARE

- Sharing of Information. The parties agree to share certain personally identifiable educational information related to students, namely "directory information" as defined in FERPA, only as may be necessary to accomplish the purposes outlined in this Agreement and only as may be permitted by FERPA. Each party agrees to maintain the same protections for personally identifiable educational information obtained from the other party as the party would use to protect its own confidential information in accordance with FERPA.
- Information That May Be Shared. The following directory information may be shared between the parties' representatives pursuant to this Agreement and to the extent permitted by FERPA; provided, however, that if a parent or student that is 18 years of age or older has specifically notified the School that the student's information not be disclosed, that student's information shall not be disclosed to SOU. Students and/or parents may opt-out of NMHU communications at any time. The parties may amend the items shared if mutually agreed upon.
 - Student Information

- Last, first, and middle names (including legal and preferred)
 - School attending
 - Mailing address
 - School email address
 - Home phone
 - Cell Phone
 - Grade Level or Expected Year of Graduation
- Information Ownership. Information shared between the entities pursuant to this agreement shall remain the property of the originating institution. The entities agree that any information owned by the other party may not be shared without the express agreement in writing from the owner.

NMHU and BOERNE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT SUPPORT SERVICES

NMHU Preferential BISD Orientation

- BISD student high school-based cohorts will receive preferential orientation dates within the first two weeks of the 1-day orientation.
- Upon admission, BISD students will be assigned a Student Success Coach to choose the semester classes and further assist with the student's degree path selections.

NMHU Preferential Assignment to Student Success Coach

- The NMHU Success Coach Model provides holistic, intentional support to select NMHU first-year applicants. The program is designed to assist students, especially those from first-generation and underrepresented backgrounds, in successfully transitioning to NMHU.
- The Student Success Coach provides support during enrollment at NMHU.
- The Student Success Coach and BISD student will work together proactively to increase progress and accountability toward measurable outcomes.
- NMHU Preferential Admission into the Highland Undergraduate Enrichment (HUE) Learning Communities (LC) for BISD students

The HUE learning communities integrate courses that focus on a theme.

- The Integrative Seminar (I Seminar, UNST IO I) course supports student success by promoting academic, personal, and social integration. Peer Mentors attend the seminar and other parts of the LC to help students.
- Peer Mentors are available for social and personal mentoring, tutoring, and study support outside of class.

BOERNE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Advisor

- BOERNE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT shall assign a staff member to provide indirect support services for BOERNE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NMHU students to promote enrollment, persistence, and retention.
 - In collaboration with NMHU's support services programs, the BOERNE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Advisor will provide BOERNE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT NMHU students with virtual indirect support services, including but not limited to intrusive advising and mentoring.
 - The BOERNE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Advisor will work collaboratively with NMHU's support services programs and as a resource and referral agent linking BOERNE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL

DISTRICT students to NMHU's support services and other related organizations.

BOERNE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Access to Student Records

- BOERNE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT students will sign a Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA) release to allow BOERNE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT access to student records.
- NMHU will provide the BOERNE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT Advisor and BOERNE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT access to pertinent student information, including but not limited to financial aid, course enrollment, course completion, and early alerts.

NMHU KEY SUPPORT POINTS

- BISD students can access New Mexico Highlands University and the scholarship program to complete their degree track.
 - With work-study, Pell-eligible BISD students will cover up to four years of tuition, fees, room, and board.
 - Deserving students can graduate from a flagship university in New Mexico.
 - Intensive undergraduate support at NMHU
 - Student Success Coach
- 5 University-based support personnel providing support specifically to course of study and career interest
- Ongoing support of 2 university personnel in the students' subsequent years
- Faculty Academic Advisor (Advisor to Student Ratio 13: 1)
- Student Success Coach
- Peer Advisor assigned from Highlands Undergraduate Experience program.

PROGRAM EVALUATION METRICS

- The following metrics will evaluate the program:
- Applied, admitted, enrolled, and withdraw numbers.
- A 3-year prior mean was used as a baseline
- Track data points through the advancement
- Identify an overall 4-year college postsecondary going rate
- A 3-year previous data average will be used as a baseline
- Track data points through the advancement
- Break out all data points, where possible, on race and ethnicity

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

The initial term of this Agreement shall be from the date of the last signature below and shall remain in effect for a period of one year and thereafter will automatically renew on a year-to-year basis, not to exceed three (3) one (1) year renewals. This Agreement may not be altered or modified by either party. Either party can terminate this Agreement with 30 days written notice. Should either party terminate, participating students will have their scholarships honored. A completed Agreement shall contain signatures from all parties.

APPROVED

Benito Pacheco, MBA
Associate Vice-President of Strategic Enrollment Management

Boerne Independent School District

Date