



JUDSON INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT

Meeting Date: June 23, 2025

Submitted By: Dr. Lacey Gosch
Title: Assistant Superintendent

Agenda Item: Consider and take action regarding approving the partnership agreement with New Mexico Highland University

CONSENT ITEM

RECOMMENDATION:

To approve a partnership agreement with New Mexico Highland University and Judson ISD.

IMPACT/RATIONALE:

New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU), a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), is deeply committed to student service. Guided by its mission to empower students through accessible education and its vision to be a transformative force for underserved communities, NMHU seeks to increase student enrollment. Judson ISD (JISD), with its strong focus on serving limited-income students, is partnering with NMHU to create a pathway that aligns with these shared goals, increasing access, reducing costs, and improving completion rates for students aspiring to pursue higher education at NMHU. Goals are to increase enrollment and graduation of underserved student populations by 5%. Judson ISD should Improve enrollment of limited-income students into New Mexico Highlands University by 5%. The partnership between NMHU and Judson ISD is at NO COST to Judson ISD. Judson ISD has no financial obligation related to this partnership.

BOARD ACTION REQUESTED:

Approval/Disapproval



New Mexico Highlands University & Judson ISD Partnership Initiative

Purpose Statement

New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU), a Hispanic Serving Institution (HSI), is deeply committed to student service. Guided by its mission to empower students through accessible education and its vision to be a transformative force for underserved communities, NMHU seeks to increase student enrollment. Judson ISD (JISD), with its strong focus on serving limited-income students, is partnering with NMHU to create a pathway that aligns with these shared goals, increasing access, reducing costs, and improving completion rates for students aspiring to pursue higher education at NMHU. The partnership between NMHU and Judson ISD is at NO COST to Judson ISD. Judson ISD has no financial obligation related to this partnership.

Goals

- **NMHU:** Increase enrollment and graduation of underserved student populations by 5%.
- **District** Improve enrollment of limited-income students into New Mexico Highlands University by 5%.

Key Initiatives

Automatic Eligibility for NMHU Admission

- **Criteria:** Students with a 3.0 cumulative GPA at the end of their junior year are automatically eligible.
- **Process:**
 - Students must opt-in by December 1 using an NMHU-developed form.
 - No application is required for admission.
- **Eligibility:** Includes DACA, undocumented, and VISA students.
- **Scholarship Application:** Students must apply to the NMHU Scholarship Foundation (HSF) by December 31.
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Financial Aid and Costs

- **Estimated Yearly Costs:** \$20,596 (tuition, room, and board for out-of-state residents). The estimated yearly costs are the financial responsibility of the student attending NMHU.
- **Support Provided:**
 - \$9,920 yearly institutional scholarships.
 - \$7,680 yearly work-study.
 - Pell-eligible students receive \$7,363 for living expenses.
 - Non-Pell students have a net cost of approximately \$3,134 annually.
- **Additional Benefits:**
 - Deposit waivers and deferments for incoming students.
 - Preferential housing in multicultural residence halls.

Admissions and Support Services

- **Application Deadlines:**
 - FAFSA and NMHU scholarship applications by December 31.
 - Completion of all admissions steps (housing, meal plan, orientation schedules) by March 31st.

Support Structure

NMHU Support Services



- **Student Success Coach:** Guides students through enrollment and academic planning.
- **Learning Communities:** Priority admission into Highland Undergraduate Enrichment (HUE) programs.
 - Integrated seminar courses.
 - Peer mentors for academic, personal, and social support.
- **Orientation:** Preferential dates for partner cohorts.
- **Advising:** Dedicated student advisor for virtual and indirect support services.

Partner Support Services

- **Assigned Staff Member**
 - Collaborate with NMHU for transcripts
 - Acts as a resource and referral agent.

Program Evaluation Metrics

- Enrollment and retention data tracked using a three-year historical average as a baseline.
- Focus on racial and ethnic breakdowns.
- Key indicators:
 - Applications, admissions, enrollments, and withdrawals.
 - Four-year postsecondary enrollment rates.

Terms and Conditions

- This agreement may be terminated by either party for convenience with a minimum of 30 days written notice delivered by e-mail, US mail, or in person. This agreement may also be terminated immediately after receipt of a written notice of a party's breach of this agreement and a failure to correct within 10 days or longer as authorized in writing if either party fails to perform services consistent with this agreement, the prescribed requirements of FERPA 34 CFR S Part 99, and/or applicable state or federal law.

Approval Signature and Date

Neil Woolf, Ed.D.

President, New Mexico Highlands University

Judson ISD Representative