

## PROJECT ABSTRACT

This Title V Cooperative Arrangement Project, *“UNIDOS: Building Pathways to Access and Opportunity for the Upper Rio Grande Region,”* combines the efforts of University of New Mexico at Taos (a two-year community college), Adams State College (a rapidly evolving regional university in southern Colorado); and New Mexico Highlands University (a comprehensive regional university with some graduate programs). Together, these three HSIs will address barriers of geography, distance and under-funded K-16 educational systems that keep the region’s communities and residents from having access to quality postsecondary opportunities. Simply, *UNIDOS involves UNM-Taos building its capacity to support transfer-bound students and ASC and NMHU building their capacity to reach those students with quality programs upon transfer.*

The Title V Project will build upon the strengths of all three institutions, which will share expertise and resources, conduct joint planning and continuous improvement efforts, and focus Title V and institutional resources on “gaps” in the region’s secondary-to-graduate school pipeline. The Project’s single Activity will build *Academic Pathways* by strengthening distance learning capacities and joint efforts; increasing faculty proficiencies through professional development; and creating more effective academic and transfer advising services for students at UNM-Taos.

The Project will have measurable and significant outcomes in three areas: (1) increases in the numbers of Hispanics and other students enrolling in and succeeding in 2-year and 4-year programs at ASC, NMHU and UNM-Taos; (2) increases in the number of distance education courses (online and ITV) available to students across northern New Mexico, and increases in the capacity of faculty to develop distance education courses and teach effectively in distance modes; and (3) increases in the retention, success and graduation rates of students at ASC, NMHU and UNM-Taos via our implementation of effective academic services and other retention strategies.

The Project’s overall five-year budget of \$3,196,296 benefits each partner significantly. Only 6.5% of the budget is allocated to project management (\$207,104 over five years). Predominantly, Title V funds will support personnel (44.8%) and fringe benefits (17.5%). The five-year budget also includes Travel at 5.2%, Equipment (distance education related) at 5.7%, Supplies (largely software, computers, training materials) at 7.3%, renovation at 1.4%, and Other (training activities and endowment match) at 16.2% of the total.

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