

February 18, 2026

Dear NMSU community,

In a strategic move that will help us increase our graduate enrollment and could bring in more federal research dollars to New Mexico, I'm pleased to share with you that our graduate assistant workforce will now be entitled to full-time tuition coverage beginning with the fall 2026 semester. This morning, our Board of Regents voted to ratify a modification of our memorandum of agreement between the university and the union representing our graduate assistants. The modification reflects this change, which increases tuition scholarships available for qualified graduate workers from 6 credit hours per fall and spring semester to 9 credit hours – considered a full-time class load.

This increased tuition support for graduate assistants will help make NMSU more competitive when appealing to potential graduate students considering working in research and teaching roles while they are earning their advanced degrees.

During the summer, I made a promise to NM Rep. Patricia Roybal Caballero to increase our support for graduate student workers to cover 9 credits per semester. Though we had just completed and closed the collective bargaining agreement, the leadership team felt there was room to improve our support of graduate students, both as a way to attract more talent and as a way to give students the opportunity to stay on track with their graduation requirements.

This change is significant because it parallels our newly achieved status as a Research 1 university in moving us forward to fulfill our mission as a land-grant institution devoted to student success, research and innovation.

I want to thank everyone who helped make this possible, from the Regents to our finance and legal team, to different units in academic affairs, faculty and obviously, students.

Sincerely,



Valerio C. Ferme

President

New Mexico State University