

**DACC ADVISORY BOARD MEETING**

Gadsden School Board Members Present:  
Daniel Castillo  
Laura Salazar Flores  
Jennifer Viramontes

Hatch School Board Members Present:  
Elva Garay

Las Cruces School Board Members Present:  
Maria Flores  
Ray Jaramillo

DACC Faculty/Staff Present:  
Kelly Brooks                      Kristi Martin  
Joe Butler                         Chipper Moore  
Rusty Fox                         Fred Owensby  
Vicki Haggard                    Rod Sanchez  
Jennifer Hodges                 Mónica Torres  
Ike Ledesma                       Mary Beth Worley

Guests Present:  
Erik Harrigan, RBC

- Call to Order:** Ms. Elva Garay, President, called the DACC Advisory Board meeting to order at 6:03 PM on Thursday, September 2, 2021.
- Roll Call:** V. Haggard called roll; participants noted above were present. A quorum of the Advisory Board was present.
- Approval of Agenda:** Motion to approve the agenda as presented made by D. Castillo; seconded by R. Jaramillo; no discussion, all in favor; motion carried.
- Approval of Minutes: May 6, 2021** Motion to approve May 6, 2021 minutes as presented made by R. Jaramillo; seconded by L. Salazar Flores; no discussion, all in favor; motion carried.

**1. Appoint New Board Secretary (LCPS) – Elva Garay**

**Key Discussion Points:** LCPS School Board made some changes to who will be representing LCPS on the DACC Advisory Board – Ms. Terrie Dallman will no longer be serving on the DACC Advisory Board; she is being replaced by Mr. Ray Jaramillo. With this change, DACC Board President, Ms. Elva Garay appointed Mr. Ray Jaramillo from LCPS to serve as Secretary for the remainder the LCPS term expiring March 2022.

**Decision/Action:** Motion to appoint Mr. Ray Jaramillo, LCPS as DACC Advisory Board Secretary made by D. Castillo; seconded by L. Salazar Flores; no discussion, all in favor; motion carried.

---

**2. Moody’s Updated Rating Action – Ms. Katherine McKinney, Mr. Erik Harrigan, Ms. Kelly Brooks**

**Key Discussion Points:** Informational update – change in methodology for calculating rating has changed, but this did not change DACC’s rating. With the change Moody’s withdrew the college’s Higher Education District rating and applied a College/District rating (AA2). College/district will be treated like a local government/school district (levy, property tax, and GO bond debt).

**Decision/Action:** Please refer to the September 2, 2021 Meeting Binder on the DACC Advisory Board’s website for complete presentation (<https://dacc.nmsu.edu/advisoryboard/>).

---

**3. President’s Update – Dr. Mónica Torres**

**Key Discussion Points:** Dr. Mónica Torres welcomed and introduced two new administrators to DACC – Dr. Jennifer Hodges, Associate Vice President for Academic Affairs (accreditation &

assessment) and Mr. Chipper Moore, Division Dean for Advanced Technologies. The following updates were also provided to the Board.

COVID operations for Fall 2021 – 65-70% of classes will remain online, staff will be working hybrid schedules (int the office/remotely), safety protocols are in place for the return to classes/working on campus (masks, physical distancing, cleaning, and vaccines/weekly testing). DACC East Mesa Campus is still a Curative testing site.

#### **Things That Matter – DACC Priorities for the Year**

- Numbers – enrollment numbers were reviewed (population we have lost (low-income, first-generation, students with dependents) and the population we still have).
- Access – increase number of people in our communities who access DACC services and resources (community engagement).
- Thrive – working to increase number of students who use college and community resources that support student success (wrap-around services – advising, tutoring, mental health, student clubs, student accessibility, etc.) – campus and community resources. Services should help students stay in school and come back to complete their educational goals.
- Benefit: increase number of students who complete their educational goals (certificates, degrees, transfers, and industry-recognized credentials). Look at who’s close but hasn’t completed.
- Operational Excellence – implement practices that allow us to produce results efficiently.
- Priorities, Activities, Investments, Messaging all aligned around above priorities.

Discussion was held regarding what community involvement might look like during COVID. M. Torres noted that DACC is partnering with Aprendamos (early intervention program throughout the county) they have DACC materials to share with their clients and DACC will join them at their public events. DACC wants to create more of these types partnerships with other trusted providers (Promotores). Lot of students benefited from online instruction – better access, but we realize that there are a number of students who benefit more from in-person services – trying to find the right balance to reach both of those populations of students.

Decision/Action: Please refer to the September 2, 2021 Meeting Binder on the DACC Advisory Board’s website for complete presentation (<https://dacc.nmsu.edu/advisoryboard/>).

---

#### **4. Student Services Update – Mr. Ike Ledesma**

Key Discussion Points: Student Services has 3 top priorities for the year – integrated services, student engagement, and recruitment of adult learners. Mr. Ledesma spoke in depth about integrated services. Wrap around services (Achieving the Dream/Working Student Success Network) encompasses holistic student support – 3 pillars – 1) education & career services, 2) work & income supports, 3) financial services (literacy & planning) & asset building. There is a great need for integrated services for DACC students – these services are proven to have a positive impact on student success. Currently, DACC offers the Avanza program (Kellogg Foundation) which provides such integrated services to students in southern Doña Ana County. Avanza uses student success advocates (similar to trained advisors) to: connect students to campus and community services and resources; provide a safe and supportive environment; assist students navigate the various college offices; nudge students to meet academic and college deadlines; and to conduct outreach. Looking to build upon the Avanza program by expending it January 2022 – will hire a Director of Integrated Services, DACC Connect Customer Services Manager, and 3 additional student success advocates. R. Jaramillo noted that this is a similar to community school concept, should explore how to connect

the two. The ENLACE model is also similar. M. Torres added that the DACC Dental Hygiene program has a dental clinic at Lynn Middle School and some services are also provided in Gadsden; a Ben Archer clinic at the Espina Campus, and DACC recently hired a social worker and a counselor. Recruitment of high school seniors was discussed – DACC still has a large number of new students coming directly from high schools; I. Ledesma is working with DACC Admissions to look at high school penetration rate to see how many students come to DACC from our service area. It was suggested that the student success advocates work with community school coordinators.

Decision/Action: Please refer to the September 2, 2021 Meeting Binder on the DACC Advisory Board’s website for complete presentation (<https://dacc.nmsu.edu/advisoryboard/>).

---

#### **5. Academic Affairs Update – Mr. Joe Butler**

Key Discussion Points: Departments and divisions are working on finding the right balance of modalities (in-person, online) – students were survey twice during the pandemic regarding their preference: approximately 33% preferred in-person, 33% preferred online, and 33% preferred hybrid. Spring 2022 DACC will work toward meeting these preferences. Student Services and Academic Leadership Team (SSALT) has been working on several initiatives throughout the year to increase the number of successful outcomes, time/credits earned to award. Completion Initiatives include:

1. opt-in for automatic awards and waiving of graduation fee – geared towards students whose primary goal is a bachelor’s degree, and for embedded certificates. These students typically don’t apply for a DACC degree because that is not their ultimate goal. These are awards that students have earned, they have value.
2. degree plan/audit system cleanup – currently many degree plans/audits don’t run clean which requires many course substitutions. The goal is to clean up some of the common problems. This cleanup does not involve curriculum changes.
3. learning communities – curricular structure that links together 2 or more courses; builds mini cohorts; promotes collaborations & community among students, faculty & staff; currently in the AHSS division, expanding to include more courses from other divisions/programs.
4. new certs & AAS degrees – create more certificates of completion that are embedded in a degree; explore creating a more flexible AAS degree that consists of 2 or more certificates.
5. integrated services – presented by Ike Ledesma earlier in meeting.

Decision/Action: Please refer to the September 2, 2021 Meeting Binder on the DACC Advisory Board’s website for complete presentation (<https://dacc.nmsu.edu/advisoryboard/>).

---

#### **6. External Relations Update – Ms. Kristi Martin**

Key Discussion Points: Vaccination and marketing campaigns. Participated in the White House Vaccination Challenge: engage every student, faculty, staff; deliver vaccine access for all (PODs with NMDOH at East Mesa); organize college community. Marketing campaigns – highlights included: summer/fall campaigns, Facebook boosts, OTT ads, upcoming campaign (asset-based messaging), continue with taglines; new television ads; expand voice talent (female); improve social media reach.

Decision/Action: Please refer to the September 2, 2021 Meeting Binder on the DACC Advisory Board’s website for complete presentation (<https://dacc.nmsu.edu/advisoryboard/>).

---

#### **7. DACC Advisory Board & NMSU Board of Regents Relationship – Dr. Mónica Torres**

Key Discussion Points: M. Torres introduced Mr. Adam Cavotta, Chief of Staff for NMSU Board of Regents. Reminder of the joint luncheon (9/16, 12:00-1:30 PM, Otero Room, NMSU Corbett Center); agenda – introductions, expectations or concerns about supporting mission of college; good news to share about DACC. Operating agreement which was up for

review/approval Nov. 2020 was discussed. Board is asked to think about expectations or concerns they would like to share with members of the Board of Regents in support of the mission of the college?

Decision/Action: Please refer to the September 2, 2021 Meeting Binder on the DACC Advisory Board's website for complete presentation (<https://dacc.nmsu.edu/advisoryboard/>).

---

## 8. Updates from School Districts

Key Discussion Points: HVPS – E. Garay 87% of staff have been vaccinated; problem with outbreaks is not with students in the classroom (they are following safety protocols) but with parents sending sick children to school.

LCPS – R. Jaramillo – there is a big shortage in substitute teachers; superintendent found creative ways to change substitute teaching pay scale; there will be close to 400 interviews in the next few days – big picture substitutes and teachers are not paid well and he hopes the legislature will look at this. Need to be mindful that people may be making decisions based on other circumstances not to mention stresses of being in a pandemic – may be doing it for survival reasons (sending children to school sick). Sra. Flores – have had some small COVID outbreaks in the schools – everyone seems to be following protocols (maybe send note to parents of students in Hatch that are sent to school when sick).

GISD – L. Salazar Flores – being mindful that there are parents/families complying with quarantine requirements – these students should have access to instruction as well. When DACC students have to quarantine – do they have access to instruction? Yes, most faculty have prepared back up plans for these types of situations, not all, but most. Gadsden passed policy to go to proficiency grading scale, it is a challenge to make it work – doing it because sometimes the top 10% graduating get scholarships then placement testing for Math and English puts them in remedial/developmental courses. Do we have data on graduates from high school that have to take remedial courses? English & Math departments have adopted holistic placement of students in dev ed – looking at a lot of different measures for placement (high school GPA, tests, internal test, etc.). DACC does track that information and is happy to provide. Challenges students at DACC face – how do we educate and encourage parents prior to graduation that it is important for children to continue on to higher education, encourage them to fill out the FAFSA form. Ms. Flores knows of a parent withholding tax info because student wants health career and father wants student to do automotive. Student has to be independent for 2 years before can complete FAFSA on own income – those are federal dollars, so changes would have to go through legislation. If grades are good, he can get scholarships. R. Jaramillo some parents withhold financial resources also due to sexual orientation.

Decision/Action: M. Torres will gather data on high school students from the different districts and Math/English placement at DACC.

---

## 9. Board Announcements and Comments

Key Discussion Points: Tentative Board Meeting Dates

- Thursday, November 4, 2021

Decision/Action: M. Torres closed by thanking board members for their attendance.

---

**Adjournment:** Motion to adjourn the DACC Advisory Board meeting made by D. Castillo; seconded by R. Jaramillo; no discussion, all in favor; motion carried. Meeting adjourned at 8:21 PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Ray Jaramillo, Secretary  
DACC Advisory Board