

June 17, 2020

Esteemed New Mexico Legislators:

We write to you today to express support for the priorities for the 2020 Special Session of the New Mexico Legislature, laid out by NMCUP, NMICC, and NMACC.

We further support the efforts of President Stokes and the UNM Government Relations team in identifying alternative solutions which work to address our complex needs and the realities of the state budget.

We urge you to consider the alternative scenarios that have been suggested below:

Higher Education suggests that instead of the Federal Funding swap, the legislature sand 4% across all University and Community College budgets now, and then wait until the 60-day session, in January, to decide if additional cuts are necessary for FY21 and FY22.

Higher Education suggests a second way to avoid the deep cuts resulting from a Federal funds swap would be to use the state's reserves instead, which is the intent of having such reserves during emergency situations. The amount needed equates to about 0.4% of the reserves – a relatively small amount that would provide some relief to Higher Ed institutions.

If the Federal funds swap is approved, the associations request the addition of “trigger language” to special session budget legislation, to revert the swapped funds back to the institutions if State revenues meet defined thresholds. In this way, if the December Revenue Forecast shows an outlook that significantly lessens the need for such severe cuts, the swap would be reversed, and Higher Ed institutions would receive their COVID relief funds.

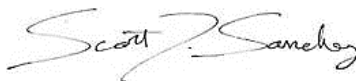
We also want to express our sincere thanks for your willingness to come back and address these challenges. Putting your own health and safety at risk to do the business of the state is honorable.

On behalf of the University's 4,500 staff, *thank you*.

Respectfully,



Nancy L. Shane
Staff Council President



Scott T. Sanchez
Staff Council President-elect



Ryan E. Gregg
Staff Council Past-President