

Office of the Chancellor

New Mexico State University System
MSC 3Z
P.O. Box 30001
Las Cruces, NM 88003-8001
575-646-2035, fax: 575-646-6334
president@nmsu.edu

DATE: March 8, 2018
TO: All NMSU employees
FROM: Garrey Carruthers, Chancellor
SUBJECT: Successful legislative session



Well, it is official. This was one of the best legislative sessions in the past few years. The Governor proposed, the Legislature disposed, and the Governor signed a number of bills pertinent to higher education. When you see your legislators, the Governor, Ricardo Rel and his staff from Government Affairs, the members of the Legislative Strike Force Team headed by Greg Fant, and any who testified or contributed to this very successful session outcome – tell them thank you so much. Here is a summary of the outcomes:

- Governor Martinez signed HB2, the budget bill. Of NMSU's items, she vetoed only \$50,000 in non-recurring funds for our CAMP program. The final bill includes:
 - An increase of \$2.454 million in recurring funding for the NMSU system;
 - \$973,000 in non-recurring funding, which includes \$200,000 for NMDA for the Chile Advertising Act, \$500,000 for WRII and \$273,000 for the Sunspot Solar Observatory;
 - A 2% compensation increase for higher education;
 - \$4 million in non-recurring funding for the lottery scholarship fund.
- Governor Martinez signed HB 306, the Severance Tax Bond Projects bill, with \$570,000 for NMSU projects. This includes \$146,000 for athletic facility renovations, \$66,000 for facilities demolition, \$250,000 for security cameras and improvements, and \$108,000 for Corona Range and Livestock Research Dorms.
- The General Obligation Bond Bill, SB 94, was signed with no vetoes of NMSU projects, totaling \$31.2 million for the NMSU system. \$25 million for Agricultural Modernization and Educational Facilities was the largest funded project in the entire bill. It also includes projects for DACC, Alamogordo, Carlsbad and Grants.
- The Governor signed SB 140, the lottery tuition decoupling bill, supported by NMSU, the Council of University Presidents and ASNMSU.
- More details will be available on the government relations website, <https://govrelations.nmsu.edu/>.