



## **Double Degree Programs with Ibero American Academic Institutions**

### **Opportunity**

- UNM because of its unique diversity has a window of opportunity to focus on Latin American, the Caribbean, and Iberian Peninsula students while other US universities remain transfixed with Asia (India, Japan, China, South Korea) and Europe, their focus is not in Ibero America.
- 44% of the population in New Mexico is Hispanic. The State has by de facto two official languages, English and Spanish. It has one of the highest concentrations of scientists in the World (Masters and PhDs); several national laboratories are in the State (Los Alamos, Sandia, White Sands, Kirtland Air Force, NASA, and others). It has an ethnic diversity of over 22 pueblos.
- The two problems with attracting top students to UNM are: Money and English. UNM (and the State) can address both easily.
- Regarding the longer term and the far reaching vision: we should focus on creating truly multidisciplinary "American" graduate degrees. Programs between UNM and selected Latin American, Caribbean, and Iberian Peninsula universities can be highly attractive. Imagine being able to use the courses of all participating institutions, to have committees consisting of experts at all institutions, and to have a thesis/dissertation work at all. Have graduating students fluent in at least two languages, and who do research that can affect the world! This effort will entice corporations and multilateral organizations to create/enhance university-industry-government relations helping in funding, internships, field work, workshops, conferences, endowed chairs, intellectual property, spin-offs, incubation, access to capital, etc. For instance, we can focus on **Energy, Bioengineering, Water Engineering, Infrastructure (Social, Physical, Technological)** and create an "American" graduate degree.
- UNM works very closely with the ISTEC network of academic institutions to produce and deliver on-line courses for undergraduate, graduate degrees as well as professional development purposes. Work want to collaborate closely with other academic institutions interested in enhancing the quality of education throughout Ibero-America to facilitate the urgent need for professional formation and training (capacity building) as a basic prerequisite for economic, social, political and cultural development.



## Activities

- Design a self-sustainable Graduate Double Degree Program
- Develop a scholarship, loan, and donation program to support the Double Degree Graduate Program
  - Similar model to the **kiva.org** micro loan program but focused on graduate education
  - Develop web-based service
    - Secure financial transactions via credit cards
    - Address privacy issues
    - Provide donors to monitor their graduate students throughout their career; direct contact if needed
    - Create a rotating fund for additional financial aid support
    - Donations
      - Scholarship: no need to pay back
      - Loan: develop payment strategy
  - Focus on Hispanic Business Community in the USA
    - Hispanic Chambers of Commerce
  - Identify wealthy Hispanic individuals in the USA
  - Identify and recruit Latin America, Caribbean, and Iberian Peninsula corporations
    - Iberdrola, Telefonica, UNIVISION, others
  - Identify wealthy individuals in Latin America, Caribbean, and Iberian Peninsula
  - Invite governmental agencies to participate
    - NSF, CAPES, CNPQ, CONACYT, COLCIENCIAS, others
  - Invite Multilateral Organizations to participate
    - IADB, OAS, CAF, UNESCO, others
- Help to administer, coordinate, identify funding opportunities
- Obtain latest legal UNM Agreements to be disseminated to potential interested academic institutions in Latin America, the Caribbean, and Iberian Peninsula. Only UNM Academic units should be involved in negotiating (departments and potentially colleges and schools). Need to have agreements that do not get negotiated by UNM every time.
  - These agreements are:
    - Overall institutional agreement
    - Undergraduate and graduate exchange agreement
    - Graduate Double Degree agreement
- Coordinate signed agreements with UNM responsible units such as LAll and the Office for International Programs and Studies



- Study issues and identify opportunities for In-State tuition instead of Out-of-State tuition for students admitted to the Double Degree Graduate Programs
- Study issues on a institution awarding a certificate for the successful completion of a set of courses or a joint certificate in case of a program (Professional Development) is developed by more than one institution
- Study issues regarding Intellectual Property for the content produced
- Study issues regarding charges and distribution of these when more than one institution has produced the content
  - University
  - School
  - Department
  - Faculty
  - ISTEAC
- Coordinate in-situ training in a partner institution
  - UNM summer time (June, July)
- Identify faculty interested in getting involved and ready to produce content
- Identify the correct partners to help produce content to be delivered such as the Extended University unit at UNM, SOE, Engineering Departments and other internal as well as external partners
  - Graphic design
  - Pedagogy
  - Tools
  - Delivery mechanism
  - Languages
  - Support mechanisms
  - Production costs
- Help coordinate strategic alliances with other academic institutions that want to partner with UNM in this endeavor



## **ECE Double Degree (MS and PhD)**

- Requirements
  - Student must comply with all UNM requirements to get ECE admission (TOEFL, GRE, letters of recommendation, personal statement, etc). UNM application fee is \$50.
  
- Model 1: on-site education at UNM
  - Minimum two semesters
  - Students need to be enrolled fulltime if they are attending UNM
  - No financial help implies out-of-state tuition; \$21,925 which includes tuition and fees, room and board, books and supplies, health insurance and other miscellaneous expenses
  - A fully loaded Graduate Assistantship is \$35,000, covers:
    - Fringe benefits, tuition, overhead, health insurance, and a monthly salary of approximately \$1,400
  - Based on merit, the ECE Department provides financial assistance to graduate students.
  
- Model 2: on-site education at UNM partner academic institution
  - Months of June and July; intensive training
  - UNM faculty travels to partner institution
  - Partner institution must cover
    - Travel costs
    - Food and lodging
    - Salary
  - Course(s) taught as a UNM course(s)
  - Students enroll in course(s)
  
- Model 3: using distance education mechanisms
  - Number of semesters is flexible. Depends on student commitment.
  - The MS degree can be completed on-line since the thesis defense can be done through a video-conference
  - During the admissions process students can begin taken on-line courses as non-degree or for professional development. Once admitted to UNM, credit hours can be transferred toward the degree-seeking program.
  - Based on merit, UNM can award scholarships, fellowships, or some kind of financial assistance
  - If student enrolls in less than 2 courses or 6 credit hours he/she pays “in-state” tuition



- Proposed model for non-degree (professional development) or degree-seeking
  - Costs per 1 course, 3 credits, is \$1500
- MS option with thesis requires 30 credit hours: 6 thesis credits and 24 credits of course work (this is the model that we are interested, option without thesis is not of interest)
  - 1 course is 3 credits
  - 1 course is equivalent to 45 academic hours
  - 1 semester is 16 weeks long
  - 12 credits or 4 courses can be transferred to UNM
  - 12 credits or 4 courses must be taken at UNM
  - 4 courses at \$1500 + \$6000
  - 2 courses per semester can be taken a “in-state”
  - The thesis credit hours vary from \$500 to \$1500. It is a function of the number of hours registered.
- The PhD model consists of additional 54 credit hours of course work and 18 hours of dissertation beyond the BS. With a MS, the student can transfer 30 credit hours.