

High School Equivalency Program Proposal
Submitted by the University of New Mexico (UNM)
Part 3: Project Abstract

The University of New Mexico (UNM) has successfully implemented the UNM High School Equivalency Program (UNM HEP) since 2002 and has provided a highly effective program with High School Equivalency (HSE) instruction, placement and supportive services for migrant and seasonal farm workers throughout the state of New Mexico. Due to the state's high poverty rate and low educational attainment, there is a strong need for a continued alternative secondary program for migrant and seasonal farm worker (MSFW) families.

The University of New Mexico (UNM) is a public, four-year degree-granting institution located in Albuquerque, New Mexico, and is designated as a Carnegie Very High Research University. As the flagship university UNM is the ideal institution to create pathways beyond a HSE diploma for our HEP graduates.

The proposed UNM HEP is a comprehensive project, and the activities include outreach and recruitment, assessment, HSE instruction & testing, job readiness workshops, and supportive services such as childcare, eye exams/glasses and stipends. UNM HEP's main objective is to recruit and enroll 70 MSFW students each year and guide them to attain their HSE diploma.

The UNM HEP project will continue to collaborate with Central New Mexico Community College, the Migrant Education Program of New Mexico and Motivation, Education and Training (MET Inc.) to provide services, spaces and support for UNM HEP students to attain their HSE diploma. Through these collaborations UNM HEP will meet the Secretary's Priorities in meeting students' social, emotional and academic needs for HEP participants. UNM HEP expects to attain the national GPRA measures which are: 1) 69% of UNM HEP participants will receive their High School Equivalency diploma and 2) 80% of UNM HEP graduates will be placed in post-secondary education or training programs, upgraded employment, or the military.