



A University Worth Discovering

June 23, 2008

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Abe Villarreal

Phone: (575) 538-6336

news@wnmu.edu

WNMU PARTERSHIPS HELP MEXICO-BASED PROFESSORS EARN MASTER DEGREES

SILVER CITY, N.M. – A successful partnership between Western New Mexico University and Monterrey Tech (Technologic de Monterrey) has created an opportunity for Mexican professors wanting to earn a Masters Degree.

The program, started in 2005, has graduated nine students with a Masters Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies. Twenty more students are currently participating in the cross-border program. The students receive instruction through a mix of online and on-site instruction at WNMU's main campus in Silver City.

WNMU in recent years has implemented plans to become a leading university for Mexicans looking to further their degree possibilities. "Any opportunities for partnerships with our neighbors in Mexico is a benefit to our area, and it goes along with other WNMU efforts like the IBA (International Business Accelerator) and the NAFTA Institute," said Linda Kay Jones, WNMU Director of Institutional Advancement.

Monterrey Tech campuses number in the thirties and are spread throughout Mexico. Dr. Patricia Manzanares-Gonzales, Dean at the WNMU School of Education (SOE), places special emphasis on the Chihuahua and Juarez campuses with professor on-site visits. "Our Board of Regents, President, and Provost, all recognize the importance of building relationships with Mexico," said Manzanares-Gonzales.

The first group of graduates began their studies in the summer of 2005. Students from the Ciudad Juarez campus of Monterrey Tech enrolled in the graduate level classes for which some received degrees in December of 2007.

The WNMU SOE has worked actively in recent years to recruit students who serve as faculty members in Mexican universities. The courses offered are required for teachers in Mexico to earn an Interdisciplinary Master of Arts degree. Manuel Rodriguez, SOE NeTL Program Manager for Off-campus Programs, recently recruited twenty-five students from Universidad Tecnologica de Ciudad Juarez. Twenty-five additional students are now enrolled at WNMU from Instituto Mexicano del Seguro Social. These new students enroll through online classes and are in residence in Silver City during the summer.

Rodriguez himself was recruited by WNMU while serving as a faculty member at a Mexican university. Since then he has been hired by WNMU where he continues to enroll in the graduate level courses.

“The partnerships we are developing with Mexico benefit New Mexico and Mexico, and we will continue to market our SOE undergraduate and graduate degree opportunities to all students,” said Manzanares-Gonzales.

Students from Mexico will be on campus at WNMU, in July, to complete their summer enrollment requirements in July.



Pictured are students from Mexico with Trinidad Tolar (center), WNMU SOE Director of Field Experience.

Located in Silver City, New Mexico, Western New Mexico University has served the people of the state of New Mexico and its surrounding areas as a comprehensive, regional, rural, public coeducational university since 1893 and caters to a student body diverse in age, culture, language and ethnic background.

###