

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Abe Villarreal

Phone: 575.538.6336

news@wnmu.edu



REGENTS SELECT DR. JOSEPH SHEPARD AS NEXT WNMU PRESIDENT

Silver City, NM – The Western New Mexico University Board of Regents have selected Dr. Joseph Shepard as the next president for the University. Dr. Shepard is currently vice president for Administrative Services and Finance at Florida Gulf Coast University (FGCU). The five-member Board of Regents unanimously selected Dr. Shepard on April 27, 2011. Dr. Shepard will lead Western New Mexico University as its 15th president effective July 1, 2011. He will have a four-year contract.

“All of the candidates were very qualified to lead WNMU. However, we believe Dr. Shepard is the best fit for this university. The feedback from the campus community and community at large during Dr. Shepard’s time in Grant County has been very positive,” said WNMU Board of Regents Chair Tony Trujillo. “He will bring valuable experience, energy and contagious enthusiasm to WNMU, our community and the state. We are confident in his leadership skills and look forward to a long-term relationship.”

Vice president at FGCU since 2003, Shepard has also served as a faculty member at Lutgert College of Business and at Colegio Americano de Torreon in Mexico. He earned an undergraduate degree at Northern Arizona University, an MBA from the University of North Texas and a Ph.D. in public administration from Florida International University.

“I am very excited to be joining the Western New Mexico University family. The university is truly a treasure amongst institutions of higher learning as it focuses on student success and service to its region and population,” said Dr. Shepard. “My wife, Marcela, and I look forward to leading such a vibrant university as it fulfills its mission of education for the many New Mexican citizens that otherwise would not have such access to higher education.”

Dr. Shepard has been married 20 years to his wife Marcela. He has two children.

The other finalists were Dr. Zenaido Camacho, Vice Provost and Associate Vice Chancellor of Diversity and Inclusion, University of Colorado Denver; Dr. Tim Hudson, Special Assistant to the Chancellor for International Programs and Initiatives, University of Houston System; Dr. Margie Huerta, President of Dona Ana Community College; and Dr. Richard Skinner, Harris and Associate/IIC Partners.



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.

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