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Luna Community College and Mesalands Community College Announce Interest in Collaborative for Higher Education Shared Services (CHES)

SANTA FE, NM – Two more New Mexico colleges have announced an interest in joining the Collaborative for Higher Education Shared Services, or CHES. Luna Community College in Las Vegas, NM, and Mesalands Community College, in Tucumcari, are exploring the option of joining the nonprofit organization that works to transform the student experience and modernize administrative processes.

“We are always seeking ways to provide our students opportunities to achieve and succeed,” said Edward Martinez, Ph.D., president of Luna. “As we move forward doing our internal homework, we will learn more about our ability to be a part of this innovative project led by CHES.”

“Our students are sometimes hindered in completing their degrees on time due to our rural location,” said Gregory T. Busch, Ed.D., president of Mesalands. “I’m hoping that as we look at auditing our capabilities, we discover we are indeed ready to join CHES and expand opportunities for our students and our community.”

CHES was formed earlier this year by the presidents of five New Mexico colleges – Central New Mexico Community College, Clovis Community College, Northern New Mexico College, San Juan College, and Santa Fe Community College. The group worked together to imagine a new Enterprise Resource Planning shared by all. The vision includes a central database using the same platform to strategically share resources and information, such as accounting, student records, financial aid, human resources, payroll, etc. After issuing an RFP last year and evaluating the proposals, CHES recently chose Workday as its partner to implement its shared services vision. In addition, CampusWorks, which shepherded the colleges through the vendor selection process, continues as a valued guide in the project.

In the coming months, Luna and Mesalands will do the work necessary to identify their college’s information technology and institutional readiness before they make a final recommendation to their respective boards about formally joining CHES.

“The presidents of CHES have formed a coalition of like-minded colleges who want to strengthen the collaboration and coordination among higher education institutions and together implement creative solutions,” said Kathy Ulibarri, chief executive officer. “Expanding our membership to partner with Luna and Mesalands is a natural and positive result of the vision we have to better serve students and improve our operations. We look forward to welcoming them when they’re ready.”

CHES is a nonprofit organization that employs a unique solution to align student services and key business processes and systems using as its foundation a more efficient, more secure, and fully integrated Enterprise Resource Planning system. Member college presidents serve on the CHES Board of Directors to manage the needs of the diverse group and to ensure a true collaboration among all colleges in the decision-making process. Visit CHES.edu.