Vision 2020 Background

University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNM HSC) has committed itself to a new Vision: “UNM HSC will work with community partners to help New Mexico make more progress in health and health equity than any other state by 2020.”

We will do this by focusing on evidence-based interventions and evidence-informed policy, by disseminating and building on successful programs and pilots, and by linking and aligning existing resources to address community priorities for improving health and health equity.

The first Vision 2020 Symposium was held in September, 2010 and focused on bringing together UNM HSC’s colleges, hospitals and its mission areas of education, service, and research to address this Vision.

The second symposium was held in May of 2011. It was a day-long Symposium in which we learned from 200 of our community partners and other higher education institutions who came from across the state. They shared with us what is working well in our relationship with the community and what can be improved, how our partnership activities can grow into the creation of a local UNM HSC “academic hub” to better mobilize University resources to address community priority health problems, and how a network of statewide, UNM Health Sciences Center “academic hubs” could benefit health status in the communities of New Mexico.

The HSC has begun planning follow-up visit to New Mexico communities in 2011. The intent is to bring to these visits a team representing different components of UNM HSC relevant to the communities’ recommendations to us.

Our first two visits included leadership from the HSC and were held in August of 2011 to the communities of Farmington, Taos, Las Cruces, and Silver City. Subsequent visits in 2012 included Lea County and Roswell; additional planned visits will be in the Gallup/Shiprock area.

There is a monthly meeting on the UNM HSC campus where partners and HSC staff/faculty/leadership present on projects and identify opportunities for partnering. Contact Leigh Caswell at lamason@salud.unm.edu if you would like to participate.
Emerging Academic Health Extension “Hub”

The University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center (UNM HSC)/Community Academic Extension Hubs refers to community-based organizations, institutions or programs in a particular region that make an arrangement with UNM HSC to serve as a local extension of the HSC in areas of interest to them: education, service, research and/or policy.

The concept has grown out of lessons learned from different campus-community models—the agricultural Cooperative Extension Service, Health Extension Rural Offices (HEROs), rurally-based residencies, and memorandums of agreement between community hospitals or community health centers and UNM HSC. These models reflect the value of decentralizing the resources of UNM HSC to local communities to better response to community health priorities.

Creation of local Academic Extension Hubs facilitates community capacity-development in health through community access to numerous HSC resources in areas as diverse as pipeline development, workforce development, telehealth, clinical service improvement, community-based education, program evaluation and research. Having full-time, community-based, UNM HSC-affiliated personnel, helps UNM HSC improve its knowledge of and response to community needs.

Finally, the development of Academic Extension Hubs is an important vehicle for helping UNM HSC fulfill its Vision 2020: UNM HSC will work with community partners to help New Mexico make more progress in health and health equity than any other state by 2020.

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www.hsc.unm.edu/vision2020