

## **Introduction and Mission Statement**

### **Introduction**

New Mexico State University was founded in 1888 as Las Cruces College. The Territorial Legislature of 1889 established the land-grant Agricultural College and Experiment Station, which officially opened on January 21, 1890. During its first full academic year, the college became known as the New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts, the first degree granting institution in the Territory. Under the provisions of the Morrill Act of 1862 and subsequent federal legislation, the special mission of land-grant institutions has been to provide a liberal and practical education for students and to sustain programs of research, extension education, and public service.

In 1960, New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanic Arts became New Mexico State University. Since that time, while sustaining excellence in those programs traditionally associated with land-grant institutions, New Mexico State has become a comprehensive doctoral level university offering a wide variety of programs through the Graduate School and the colleges: Agriculture and Home Economics, Arts and Sciences, Business Administration and Economics, Education, Engineering, and Health and Social Services.

### **Mission Statement**

New Mexico State University is the state's land-grant university, serving the educational needs of New Mexico's diverse population through comprehensive programs of education, research, extension education, and public service.

### **Statutes That Define the University**

#### New Mexico Constitution

Article XII, Section 11

Article XII, Section 13

Article XV, Section 1 (New Mexico Department of Agriculture)

#### New Mexico Statutes Annotated 1978

Article 8, Section 21-8-1, *et seq.*

Article 8, Section 21-8-3

Article 1, Section 76-1-1 through Section 76-1-3 (New Mexico Department of Agriculture)

[Note: Additional statutes pertaining specifically to each of the New Mexico Department of Agriculture's (NMDA's) five divisions are available in the Office of the Director/Secretary of NMDA.]