New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium (NMNEC)

Advancing Nursing Education Together:
From Shared Curriculum to Statewide Impact

NMNEC 2026 Report on Impact, Outcomes and Future Directions
Executive Summary

From Challenge to Statewide Impact

In 2009, nursing education leaders across New Mexico recognized the need for a more coordinated approach to preparing nurses for an evolving healthcare workforce. Barriers to nursing education, particularly in rural communities, limited opportunities for students and created challenges in building accessible pathways into and through nursing education.

The **New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium (NMNEC)** was established through the decision of participating public universities and community colleges to collaborate around a shared curriculum, consistent standards, faculty collaboration, and educational pathways.

The vision in 2009 was straightforward:

> **Expand access to high-quality nursing education while creating pathways for students to advance from practical nursing through graduate education.**

More than 16 years later, NMNEC has demonstrated the power of that vision – and the impact of institutions working together.

A Collaborative Model with Statewide Reach

Today, the NMNEC pre-licensure RN curriculum is implemented across **12 programs in 16 locations**, serving approximately **1,600 students annually**.

The NMNEC model has:

- **Established** a common, competency-based curriculum across participating institutions
- **Expanded** access to nursing education across urban and rural areas throughout New Mexico
- **Strengthened** collaboration among nursing faculty and program leaders
- **Reduced** duplication of curriculum development and resource creation
- **Provided** shared resources, guidelines, assessment approaches, and faculty support
- **Enabled** programs to respond collectively to changing healthcare and workforce needs

NMNEC demonstrates what is possible when institutions voluntarily combine their expertise, resources, and commitment around a shared purpose: preparing a highly qualified nursing workforce for New Mexico communities.

Demonstrating Impact

NMNEC's collaborative approach has contributed to a stronger and more connected nursing education system in New Mexico. NMNEC has created a statewide network of nursing educators working together to:

- Provide increased opportunities for students across urban and rural areas throughout New Mexico
- Strengthen curriculum quality and consistency
- Share effective teaching and assessment strategies
- Respond to evolving healthcare and accreditation expectations
- Advance innovation in nursing education
- Better align education with New Mexico's nursing workforce needs

This collaborative infrastructure is one of NMNEC's most important accomplishments. It allows participating programs to learn from one another, respond collectively to emerging challenges, and continually strengthen the education of New Mexico's future nurses.

New Mexico Nursing Education Consortium (NMNEC)

Expanding Opportunity and Pathways
Access to nursing education remains essential to New Mexico's healthcare future. For students in rural and underserved communities, geography, program availability, and educational transitions can create barriers to entering and advancing in nursing.

The **NMNEC Statewide LPN Curriculum Project** is an important next step. By developing a statewide approach to practical nursing education, NMNEC can strengthen entry points into nursing education while creating pathways toward RN preparation and further academic advancement.

The goal is to create accessible, connected pathways that allow more New Mexicans to enter nursing, advance their education, and serve their communities.

The Next Chapter
In 2026, **NMNEC Support**, a professional nonprofit organization, was established to provide the structure needed to sustain and advance NMNEC's work. **With more than 16 years of collaboration as its foundation, NMNEC's next chapter will focus on:**

- **Sustaining collaboration** among participating programs, faculty, and leaders
- **Expanding educational pathways** and opportunities for students
- **Advancing the Statewide LPN Curriculum Project**
- **Supporting faculty and program development**, curriculum innovation, and shared resources
- **Using data and evaluation** to guide continuous improvement
- **Building partnerships** that support New Mexico's nursing education and workforce priorities

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Advancing Nursing Education Together
The original NMNEC white paper created in 2009, identified a challenge, and proposed a collaborative solution.

More than a decade later, NMNEC has demonstrated that collaboration works.

What began as a shared curriculum has grown into a statewide network that expands educational opportunity, strengthens nursing programs, supports student progression, and contributes to New Mexico's nursing workforce.

The next chapter is not about creating a new vision.

It is about advancing the vision that began in 2009.

Together, NMNEC and its participating institutions can build on what has been accomplished and create even more opportunities for New Mexicans to enter nursing, advance their education, and serve their communities.

Together, we are advancing nursing education and preparing the nurses New Mexico needs for the future.

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Explore the Full Report
For additional outcomes, accomplishments, and the story behind NMNEC's statewide impact, see the full report, Advancing Nursing Education Together: From Shared Curriculum to Statewide Impact.

Visit NMNEC.org to explore participating programs, learn about NMNEC Support, and discover how you can help advance nursing education in New Mexico.