Online Geoscience Education Among Ancient and Current Cultures

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Who is NMSU Grants1?
- NMSU Grants is a small, two-year campus within the New Mexico State University System
- Fall 2015 Statistics:
  - Student Credit Hours: 5,814 (1,946 courses)
  - Full-time/Part Time Students: 155/893 (1,048 total)
  - Full-time Faculty: 12
- Minority Serving Institution for two minority groups:
  - Student body is 29% Native American and 38% Hispanic

Demographics of Service Area
Our service area is Cibola County in West Central New Mexico:
- Area4: 4,542 square miles
- Population (2014 est.)2: 27,349 - Density: 6.0/mi
- Poverty rate3: 27.8% - 95th percentile among US counties
- Adults (25+) holding at least a Bachelor’s Degree3: 10.4%, lowest of any county in New Mexico
- Land held by Federal Government2: 68.8%

(Lack of) Internet Connectivity5
- Only 47% of households have access to wired broadband (BB) in Cibola County, most of which have DSL speeds (1.5Mbps)
- Non-wired options:
  - Mostly satellite (3-5Mbps) with monthly data caps
  - Some line-of-sight radiowave receivers (up to 10Mbps) with no data caps

Enrollment Trends and the Future
- Downward trend in enrollment over past 4 years:
  - Cumulative loss of 31%
  - Gains in Dual Enrollment
  - In July 2015, NMSU Regents voted to reduce credits for degree from 128 to 120
    - NMSU Grants Associate’s Degrees must be reduced from 66 to 60 credits; electives likely to be cut
  - Climate Studies was offered in the Spring of 2015:
    - Not considered General Science - only an elective
    - Only 3 students enrolled - critical mass of 5 preferred

Opportunities
- Diverse history and geography of the surrounding area presents opportunity to introduce climate issues:
  - Many nearby cultural sites have historical connections to climate changes
  - Varied geography provides numerous examples of climate zones within the state
  - Drought issues plague NM, providing direct connection to importance of climate
  - Largest and most destructive fires in NM history have occurred since 2011

References
1Data from NMSU Grants Institutional Researcher, Rose Carlson
2https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cibola_County,_New_Mexico
(Accessed: 7 January 2016)
3http://quickfacts.census.gov/qfd/states/35/35006.html
(Accessed: 5 January 2016)
4http://www.co.cibola.nm.us/documentsfinal_comp_plan_2015.pdf
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5Data found at http://www.doit.state.nm.us/broadband/
(Accessed: 5 January 2016)
6https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2e/Chaco_Canyon_Chetro_Ketl_great_kiva_plaza_NPS.jpg
(Accessed: 8 January 2016)
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Contact Info
To the AMS Climate Studies Diversity Project in support of my professional development as a Climate Science Instructor