



December 18, 2024

VIA EMAIL

New Mexico State University
Board of Regents / Office of the President
2850 Weddell St
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Las Cruces, NM, 88003
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**RE: NMDOJ's Investigative Findings and Recommendations on Hazing
and Title IX at New Mexico State University**

Dear Chairwoman Dr. Ammu Devasthali, Members of the Board of Regents, and Interim President Dr. Mónica Torres:

Over the past several months, the New Mexico Department of Justice (NMDOJ) has conducted a review into New Mexico State University's (NMSU) Title IX and hazing prevention systems and practices. I write to provide the NMDOJ's final report documenting investigative findings and recommendations for improvement.

The NMDOJ's review was prompted by disturbing sexualized hazing incidents within the 2022-2023 men's basketball program, which resulted in the charging of three former NMSU student-athletes by my office. These incidents revealed a toxic locker room culture, an absence of oversight by key Athletic Department personnel, and a systemic lack of priority given to hazing prevention measures.

While NMSU has made commendable strides in improving safety protocols since the events in 2022-23, our findings underscore the need for sustained action to ensure that sexual assault and hazing prevention remain institutional priorities. The attached report identifies seven primary areas of concern and provides 35 actionable recommendations, including:



1. **Developing written guidelines** to improve coordination between the Athletic Department, Office of Institutional Equity, and Dean of Students;
2. **Instituting recurring Title IX and anti-hazing training** for all students and staff;
3. **Employing consistent disciplinary measures** for student-athlete misconduct;
4. **Enhancing scrutiny of hiring and recruiting practices** for coaches and players;
5. **Securing senior leadership's commitment** to prioritize safety and allocate adequate financial and human resources; and
6. **Creating a resource center for sexual violence** education and prevention.

Additionally, we will be urging the New Mexico Legislature to pass anti-hazing legislation, as New Mexico remains one of only six states without such statutory safeguards. The attached report includes draft legislation.

NMSU has an opportunity to take meaningful steps to enhance the well-being of its students, and set the standard for sexual assault and hazing prevention statewide. The NMDOJ looks forward to continued collaboration to ensure a safe and supportive environment for all students.

Sincerely,

Raúl Torrez
Attorney General
New Mexico Department of Justice



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Encl: NMDOJ Final Report