



Executive Summary - Final Report
Accelerate Project Evaluation
March 1, 2015

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The findings in this evaluation are based on first-hand experience of students and staff on each of the six campuses participating in the Accelerate program in Northern New Mexico, as well as the program and campus leadership staffs.

All of the program interventions are effective, but the proactive advising by the campus Career Technical Advisors (CTAs), the Math Experience, and the Career and Professional Readiness training and special events stand out in both students' and evaluators' evaluations.

Collaboration among members of the program's Advisory Committee (including members from the Regional Development Corporation, the business community, and the project leadership), among the campus CTAs, and among the campus mathematics professionals who deliver the Math Experience, is remarkably healthy and strong.

With input and assistance from the campus Institutional Research staffs, the evaluators developed a refined evaluation template to improve understanding of the project's performance. ***Comparing full-time Accelerate and non-Accelerate students (in the same programs), we found that Accelerate students out-performed the control group in every metric—persistence, time-to degree, and completion. The average difference in performance rates is about 20 percentage points.***

The Evaluators have developed a number of recommendations for expanding the program to other campuses in New Mexico, and for institutionalizing and scaling the interventions so they will persist and grow on the existing campuses when and if grant funding expires. Most of the campus' Executive leadership expressed their intent to commit resources to the program's continuance and the Project Leadership plans to pursue additional grants for this purpose. In addition, the successes of the program indicate that the Accelerate institutions will and have gained funding from every specific aspect of the New Mexico Higher Education funding formula that targets performance.

The success of this Accelerate project is impressive; it should be continued and expanded.

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