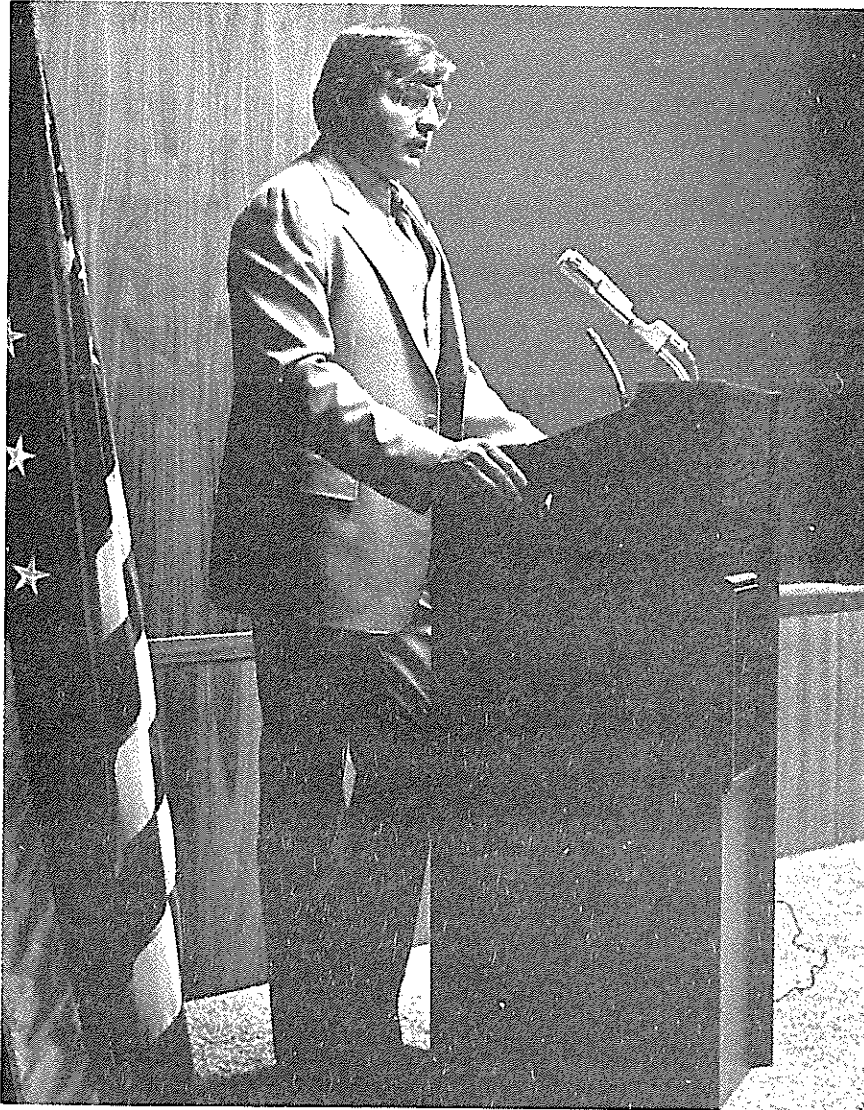


WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY



Bill Humphries

William Humphries, President, New Mexico State University Board of Regents, delivered the welcoming address at the 26th Annual New Mexico Water Conference.

WELCOME TO THE UNIVERSITY

William Humphries, President  
NMSU Board of Regents

First, I have the pleasure of reading the proclamation on behalf of the Governor and presenting it to you.

PROCLAMATION

Whereas, water is vital to all things living; and

Whereas, a continuing source of good quality water is important to the citizens of the State of New Mexico; and

Whereas, the limited water resources of the State of New Mexico must be used in a judicious manner and their care, use and development is the responsibility of all citizens of the State; and

Whereas, the New Mexico Water Conference annually focuses on water resource problems and seeks ways to protect the present level of quality water and to reclaim and reconvert water;

Now, therefore, I, Bruce King, Governor of the State of New Mexico, do hereby proclaim the week of March 22-28, 1981, as:

"Water for New Mexico Week"

and urge all citizens to pay special recognition to this week and the significance of water to the State of New Mexico.

Done at the Executive Office this 19th day of March, 1981. Witness my hand and the Great Seal of the State of New Mexico.

Bruce King, Governor

I always like to brag about New Mexico State University. My association with the University has truly been a pleasant one. I feel fortunate for the honor and the privilege of serving this University and serving with some people -- like the administration, the staff, and the faculty of this University. I think one of the important things the University does is to bring people together who have a common need to solve a problem and hopefully to look into the future and deal with some problems.

This University is almost a hundred years old. The East Coast is not the only place that has old universities with histories and reputations. We think that in New Mexico State University's short one hundred years (approximately, it will be 1988 when we have our centennial year) we have accomplished a great deal. Probably in the last ten years, education at this university and all the outreach programs of this university have exceeded all that went before it in the 90 years previous to it. I think New Mexico State University is now a major university, and can make that claim on an international level. It is not just a small A&M college anymore. We have five branch campuses and a very large main campus. In the Fall of 1980 we had almost 17,000 students at this University. There are over 3,000 employees, faculty, and staff. This year our budget is approximately \$150 million, depending on whether we get any more out of the Legislature or not. The graduating class has 500 two-year Associate Degrees annually, 1,500 Bachelor's, 330-350 Master's Degrees, and 40-50 Ph.D.'s each year. The additional things that make this University great, I think, are things like the Water Resources Research Institute,

New Mexico Department of Agriculture, the Extension Service, the Physical Science Laboratory -- who by the way is now, I think, the tenth largest defense contractor amongst universities in the United States.

Those are things people often overlook about New Mexico. They think we are hidden away in the Southwest and maybe we take advantage of some facets of being hidden away in the Southwest, but in general we have some good things going for us. The Solar Energy Institute, the Experiment Station, put New Mexico State University on the leading edge, I think. We are doing things that are important for the survival, not only of the Southwest, but of mankind in general. I think we have international projects of major scope and sequence. We are dealing with Egypt now on a project that is -- the ultimate dollar figure I think is \$48 million on a cereals and legume project. We have an education project in North Yemen and I think any project that we get on -- and Dr. Bahr was just telling me that he was going to work on a project in Algeria -- any kinds of educational understanding and projects that have impact for positive impact in the Middle East are certainly worthwhile programs. We have worked with the great nation of Mexico to the south for a long time. This University was not just aware of Mexico when they discovered oil. We have got exchange projects with universities or cooperative agreements with universities in Taiwan and in Italy and probably others that I may not know about at the present.

Our international scope is something of major interest. We generally have people in between 8 and 11 foreign countries at any given time. I think that size is not the most important thing. The most important thing is the quality of what we are doing.

I believe the staff, faculty, and administration that Dr. Thomas has put together have been uncommonly excellent. I think that we have had growth without sacrificing excellence. Sometimes its easy to grow and sacrifice what made you grow or what you are striving for -- and that is excellence -- and I think New Mexico State University has managed to retain that. I think that there is not a person in the State of New Mexico that somehow this university does not affect their life or touch it. In some program, some form, we have dealt with just about everybody in the State of New Mexico, and not only in New Mexico, but on a regional and national and now an international basis. But more importantly yet I think is the very reason you are here -- that is that we are looking for ways to bring people together and solve problems. I think providing research, the technical assistance and the opportunity to mutually address and hopefully solve some of the burning questions and some of the problems of the future of New Mexico and the Southwest, the Nation, and the world in general are opportunities that a university certainly can not turn its back on, and I hope this university continues to address them as they have in the past. I think the hope for the future is in education and the university provides that opportunity. I thank you and welcome you to New Mexico State University.