

Thomas W. Newsom, Ph.D.

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Education

Ph.D. The University of North Texas: Higher Education

M.S. Texas A&M Commerce: Higher Education Administration

B.A. Austin College: Business Administration, Communications

Presidential Appointments

- **President, Mesalands Community College, 2013 – present**
- **Vice Chancellor, South University, 2010 – 2013**
- **President, The Art Institute of Dallas, 2008 – 2013**
- **President, The Art Institute of Austin, 2007 – 2008**
- **Vice President of Student Affairs, The Art Institutes, 2006 – 2007**
- **Interim President, The Art Institute of Tennessee, 2007**

Administrative Appointments

- **Assistant Vice President of Student Affairs, The Art Institutes, 2004 – 2006**
- **Dean of Student Affairs, The Art Institute of Dallas, 2002 – 2004**
- **Director of Public Relations, The Art Institute of Dallas, 2000 – 2002**
- **Editor, Dallas Fort Worth Community Newspapers, 1999 - 2000**
- **Director of Media Relations, The Southland Conference, 1996 – 1997**
- **Assistant Sports Information Director, Baylor University, 1993 – 1996**
- **Assistant Sports Information Director, Northwestern State University, 1991 – 1993**
- **Director of Sports Information, Austin College, 1988 – 1991**

Fundraising Experience

- **Secured a major facilities gift for institutional expansion that included acreage adjacent to campus and a 40,000+ square-foot building. This donation is the largest gift in the history of the College.**
- **Created a partnership with the Tucumcari Economic Development Corporation to provide the college with a 92-acre parcel of land in which to construct a new Animal Science/Rodeo Facility. First phase of construction is underway, with an initial investment from the Mesalands Community College Foundation.**

- Secured \$2,800,000 in general obligation bonds, through a ballot initiative, and over \$1 million in legislative severance bond funding for campus infrastructure improvements. Completed over \$3 million of infrastructure improvements during first three years of presidency.
- Secured a Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant (TAACCT) from the U.S Department of Labor and Department of Education for over \$550,000 to re-establish Mesalands' nursing program and add an additional allied health program.
- Secured a major land gift for the institution of just over 44-acres that included a family homestead with water and mineral rights.
- Led a campus through the final three years and close-out of a \$3.8m HSI STEM Grant.
- Secured a 103 percent (103%) increase in special appropriations from the New Mexico Legislature. A portion of the increase was in a special appropriation to fund 100% of the college's athletic expenditures. Secured an additional \$20,000 from the city of Tucumcari Lodgers Tax Board in order to host an additional college rodeo event on campus.
- In the initial year as President added over \$500,000 to the College fund balance after College had experienced prior years of unbalanced budgets. Developed a balanced budget for 2015-2016 fiscal year that included no tuition or fee increases to students and a three percent (3%) compensation increase across the campus. Campus has worked with balanced budgets in each year of my Presidency.

Financial Leadership Experience

- 2017 Ranked 9th Best Community College in the Nation by Wallethub.com based on quality and affordability.
- 2016 Ranked 12th Best Community College in the Nation by Wallethub.com based on quality and affordability.
- 2017 Ranked 5th Most Affordable Community College in the nation by AffordableColleges.com.
- 2016 Ranked 7th Most Affordable Community College in the nation by AffordableColleges.com.
- Guided the college to be named the seventh (7th) most affordable community college in the nation by an independent organization. College also named a "Tuition Hero" by TuitionHeroes.com for 2014, 2015 and 2016. The college has maintained affordability due to minimal tuition increases and continuous scholarship support from an increasing endowment within the Mesalands Community College Foundation. The College maintains a zero percent (0%) student loan default rate.
- Guided a campus to correct financial issues prior to arrival as President that resulted in three years of late audit submissions, accreditation, and DOE sanctions.
- Successfully moved the two colleges through a United States Department of Education Financial Aid Program Reviews.
- Council for Resource Development, Presidents Fundraising Institute, 2014
- Board Member, Consumer Credit Counseling Service of North Central Texas (Past)

Accreditation Experience

- Higher Learning Commission (HLC), Peer Reviewer Certification, 2016
- Participated as a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Peer Reviewer.

- Successfully moved Mesalands Community College through completion of an institutional self-study and Higher Learning Commission (HLC) reaffirmation and focus visits.
- Developed and implemented action plans to remove "Notice" designation from the Commission due to issues that occurred prior to my appointment as president.
- Successfully moved two colleges through a United States Department of Education Financial Aid Program Reviews.
- Successfully guided an institution through a merger that included gaining regional accreditation, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), for two (2) of the campuses.
- Guided the institution through a successful Southern Association of College and Schools (SACS) substantive change/reaffirmation visit that resulted in zero (0) recommendations from the visiting committee after inheriting a campus that was on "monitoring" status.
- Moved college through a merger to a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Level V institution, and launched first Master's Degree program.
- Moved a college through two successful programmatic accreditation reviews.

Faculty Appointments

- Adjunct Professor of Higher Education, Southern New Hampshire University, 2013 – present
- Curriculum and Course Developer, Southern New Hampshire University, 2013 – present

Professional Development and Continuing Education

- Harvard Graduate School of Education, Seminar for Experienced Presidents, 2015
- Higher Learning Commission, Peer Reviewer Certification, 2016
- American Association of Community Colleges, Presidents Academy, 2015, 2016, 2017
- Belmont University, Business Ethics Certificate, 2015
- Jenzabar Annual Meeting, 2016
- Council for Resource Development, Presidents Fundraising Institute, 2014
- Higher Learning Commission, Workshop on Student Persistence and Completion, 2014

Entrepreneurial Experience

- Owner/Publisher, The Little Elm Journal, 1997 – 1999

Professional and Community Service Leadership Activities

- Chair, Executive Committee, American Association of Community Colleges, Presidents Academy
- Vice President, Council on Accreditation of Two-Year Colleges, (formerly known as the Council of North Central Two Year Colleges)
- Executive Committee, American Association of Community Colleges, Presidents Academy

- Commission on Leadership and Professional Development, American Association of Community Colleges
- Commission on Global Education, American Association of Community Colleges
- New Mexico State Higher Education Master Planning Committee, Higher Education Governance Subcommittee
- Board Member, Dan C. Trigg Memorial Hospital, (Presbyterian Health Care Services)
- East Central New Mexico Stronger Economies Together, 2016 Regional Planning Team
- New Mexico State Representative, Council of North Central Two Year Colleges
- 2017 Invitational Symposium, *Minority Serving Community Colleges: Celebrating Student Success Convening*, sponsored by the U.S. Department of Education
- Complete College America, 2015, 2016 Annual Convening of the States, State Delegate from New Mexico
- White House Rural Council, 2015, 2016 White House Annual Convening with Rural Community College Alliance, Washington, D.C.
- 2016 Invitational Symposium, *Getting in the Fast Lane: Ensuring Economic Security and Meeting the Workforce Needs of the Nation*, Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)
- 2015 Invitational Symposium, *Transforming Our Priorities*, Association of Community College Trustees (ACCT)
- 2014 Workshop on Student Persistence and Completion, Higher Learning Commission (HLC)
- Executive Committee, New Mexico Independent Community College Association (NMICC)
- Executive Director Search Committee, New Mexico Independent Community College Association (NMICC)
- President/Rotary Club of Tucumcari, Tucumcari, New Mexico
- President Elect/Rotary Club of Tucumcari, Tucumcari New Mexico
- Board Member/ Rotary Club of Tucumcari, Tucumcari, New Mexico
- Board Member, Keep Tucumcari Beautiful
- Oversight Committee, Tucumcari Tourism Workgroup
- Board Member, Austin College Alumni Board
- Peer Reviewer/Consultant Evaluator, Higher Learning Commission
- Visiting Committee Member, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools
- Committee Member, Southern Association for College Student Affairs (SACSA) Research and Assessment Committee
- Chairman of the Board, Consumer Credit Counseling Service of North Central Texas (Past)
- Board Member, Consumer Credit Counseling Service of North Central Texas (Past)
- Board Member, Austin College Greek Alumni Council (Past)
- Board Member, Bradley Academy Board of Trustees, York, Pa. (Past)
- Executive Board of Directors (Secretary), Dallas Northeast Chamber of Commerce (Past)
- Educational Advisory Board, Texas Restaurant Association (Past)
- Board of Directors, North and East Texas Press Association (Past)
- President, Little Elm Area Chamber of Commerce (Past)
- Board of Directors, Little Elm Economic Development Board (Past)
- NCAA Certification Self Study Committee, Baylor University (Past)
- Head Baseball Coach Search Committee, Baylor University (Past)
- Collegiate Athlete, Austin College, (Football, Baseball)

Publications, Panels, and Presentations (select)

- Presenting Chair, American Association of Community Colleges Presidents Academy Summer Institute, New York City, July 22-25, 2017
- Panelist, *Accreditation in Rural Community Colleges*, Rural Community College Alliance, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, September 27-29, 2017
- Testimony, Wind Energy Curriculum, New Mexico Science, Technology, and Telecommunications Interim Legislative Committee, 2017
- Presentation, *When Crisis Hits*, 2017 Rural Community College Alliance, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, September 27-29, 2017
- 2016 Lone Star Enchantment Alliance – Panelist, Higher Education Forum
- Keynote Address, 2015 Association of Graduate Student in Higher Education, The University of North Texas
- Keynote Address, 2015 Tucumcari High School Golden Rattler Reunion
- American Association of Community Colleges Proposal Reviewer in Support of AACC's 98th Annual Convention
- Peer Reviewer/Editorial Board, *Journal of Research in Education*
- Reviewer - Southern Association for College Student Affairs (SACSA), Research Grant and Dissertation of the Year.
- Commencement Speaker, Otero County Correctional Facility, 2016.
- Table Topics Facilitator, AACC President's Academy Summer Institute, 2016.
- Panelist, Higher Education Forum, Lone Star Enchantment Alliance, 2016.
- Presentation, *Community Partnerships at a Rural Community College: Working with a Government Entity to Launch a Capital Project*, 2015 Rural Community College Alliance, Reno, Nevada, September 22-24, 2015.
- Keynote Speaker, Quay County (NM) Retired Educators Association Luncheon, August 2015.
- *Footsteps to The Past: A History of Austin College*. Dr. Light Cummins, ed.
- The Little Elm Journal, DFW Community Newspapers
- Sports Guides and Program Publications – Various Universities

Leadership Experience – Mesalands Community College

President (2013 – present)

Responsible for a public, rural, Hispanic Serving (HSI) community college serving the Northeast area of New Mexico and the Texas Panhandle, with a total enrollment of approximately 2,400 students in over 22 academic programs at the Associate's and Certificate levels. With an annual operating budget, primarily from state appropriations and federal grants, the College's focus is to provide the best academic, adult basic, GED completion, and unique vocational and technical education offerings possible to meet the region's transfer and workforce needs. Mesalands offers programs unique to the college's service area such as Wind Energy Technology, Western Arts and Artistic Silversmithing, Bronze Arts, Paleontology, and Ferrier and Animal Sciences. In 2014-15, the college saw substantial student growth, 13 percent (13%) and an eight percent (8%) improvement in persistence over the previous year. This was a shift in a trend that saw over 20 percent (20%) enrollment declines prior to my

tenure as President. In 2015-16, the enrollment growth continued as student enrollment grew by three percent (3%). The College is experiencing a similar trend in the current year, with Fall 2016 and Spring 2017 enrollment growth over nine percent (9%).

Select Accomplishments:

- Ranked #1 Community College in New Mexico by BestColleges.com.
- Ranked 5th Most Affordable Community College in the nation by AffordableColleges.com (2017).
- Ranked 7th Most Affordable Community College in the nation by AffordableColleges.com (2016).
- Ranked 9th Best Community College in the Nation by Wallethub.com (2017).
- Ranked 12th Best Community College in the Nation by Wallethub.com (2016).
- Ranked 33rd on the 2015 *Community College Week* Fastest Growing Community College's National Ranking for schools with enrollment under 2,500. Ranked 44th among all community colleges nationally.
- Successfully moved the college through completion of an institutional self-study and Higher Learning Commission (HLC) reaffirmation and focus visits. Developed and implemented action plans to remove "Notice" designation from the Commission due to issues that occurred prior to my appointment as president.
- Guided a campus to correct financial issues prior to arrival as President that resulted in three years of late audit submissions, accreditation, and DOE sanctions.
- Successfully moved the College through a United States Department of Education Financial Aid Program Review.
- Worked with a local developer to acquire and renovate a local apartment building to launch the College's first ever student housing project.
- Created and implemented an institution-wide enrollment management plan in order to facilitate student growth. During my tenure as president the college has experienced over twenty-eight percent (28%) total student growth and has been designated as one of the fastest growing community colleges in the nation.
- Secured a Trade Adjustment Assistance Community College and Career Training Grant (TAACCT) from the U.S Department of Labor and Department of Education for over \$550,000 to re-establish the college's nursing program and add additional allied health program.
- Secured a partnership with the Tucumcari Economic Development Corporation to provide the college with a 92-acre parcel of land in which to construct a new Animal Science/Rodeo Facility. First phase of construction is underway with an initial investment from the Mesalands Community College Foundation.
- Secured \$2,800,000 in general obligation bonds, through ballot initiative, and over \$1 million in legislative severance bond funding for campus infrastructure improvements. Completed over \$1 million of infrastructure improvements during first year of presidency.
- Worked to reduce the number of required credits to degree to 60-63 semester credit hours in all programs, while ensuring quality, affordability, and transferability.
- Secured additional transfer/articulation agreements with three bachelor's degree granting institutions and strengthened existing agreements with state and regional universities. Engaged an additional university to offer classes directly on the Mesalands campus in order

to facilitate student transfer and provide additional education opportunities for local public school personnel.

- Selected by the United States Department of Education to be a pilot campus for the Project Success initiative.
- Nominated for a 2018 Bellwether Award by the Community College Future Assembly.
- College named a "Tuition Hero" by TuitionHeroes.com for 2014, 2015, 2016 and 2017. The college has maintained affordability due to minimal tuition increases and continuous scholarship support from an increasing endowment within the Mesalands Community College Foundation. The College maintains a zero percent (0%) student loan default rate.
- Managed to secure a 103 percent (103%) increase in special appropriations from the New Mexico Legislature. A portion of the increase was in a special appropriation to fund 100% of the college's athletic expenditures. Secured an additional \$20,000 from the city of Tucumcari Lodgers Tax Board in order to host an additional college rodeo event on campus.
- Increased dual-enrollment opportunities for high school students across the state, adding additional high school locations outside of the college's services area. Increased enrollment through additional program offerings at state private and public correctional facilities.
- Achieved highest graduation rate among all state public two-year schools and fourth (4th) among all state public higher education institutions. Ranked ninth (9th) in the state among all public institutions in total awards granted as the smallest independent community college in the state.
- Managed to complete the initial-year as president by adding over \$500,000 to the college fund balance after college had experienced prior years of unbalanced budgets. Developed a balanced budget for the 2015-2016 fiscal year that included no tuition or fee increases to students, and a three percent (3%) compensation increase across the campus.
- Secured a major land gift for the institution of just over 44-acres that included a family homestead with water and mineral rights.
- Secured a major facilities gift for institutional expansion that included acreage adjacent to campus and a 40,000+ square-foot building. Largest single gift in the history of the College.
- Appointed by the state Secretary of Higher Education as one of five (5) representatives from New Mexico to represent the state at the Complete College America Annual Convening of the States.

Leadership Experience – The Art Institutes/South University

Vice Chancellor, President, Various Positions (2000 - 2013)

Responsible for a system of regionally-accredited institutions serving two states, Texas and North Carolina, with the Dallas campus enrolling over 2,000 students and just under 350 faculty and staff, awarding certificates, associates, bachelors, and master's degrees in 19 different disciplines. With an annual operating budget of \$60 million. The institution's focus was to provide the best academic, career-oriented education offerings possible to meet the region's workforce needs.

Select Accomplishments:

- Vice-Chancellor with administrative responsibility of four (4) campuses.
- Successfully implemented student-housing programs, from facility acquisition and staffing, to student move-in at 16 different campus locations.

- Successfully guided the institution through a merger that included gaining regional accreditation, Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS), for two (2) of the campuses.
- Guided the institution through a successful Southern Association of College and Schools (SACS) substantive change/reaffirmation visit that resulted in zero (0) recommendations from the visiting committee after inheriting a campus that was on “monitoring” status.
- Moved college through a merger to a Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS) Level V institution, and launched first Master’s Degree program.
- Moved a college through two successful programmatic accreditation reviews.
- Developed and implemented faculty credentialing initiative and improved faculty satisfaction with the creation of a faculty sabbatical and faculty titling program.
- Created a system of four-colleges, two in Texas and two in North Carolina, under one merged institution with common policies and curriculum. Guided merger of institutions through state and federal approval process.
- Worked to reduce the number of required credits for a degree in all programs, while ensuring quality, affordability, and transferability.
- Successfully guided start-up of two branch campuses, once as a branch campus founding president, once as a president of the main campus, from facility acquisition to staffing and initial student enrollment.
- Grew campus enrollment through gaining appropriate approvals for new academic programs and facility expansion including an audio production school, a digital film school, and a culinary school.
- Hired and trained new campus management teams that exceeded established goals for start-up timeline, including student enrollment, retention, and graduation rates.
- Created and implemented a remote student assistance program that offered 24-hour counseling and student support services.
- Created and implemented a system-wide disability services program in order to provide disability services support and training to over 89 campus locations.
- Developed and implemented comprehensive program for review and dispensation of students who had disclosed criminal background information as part of their college application.
- Founding president of a regionally accredited (SACS) branch campus that grew within the first year to over 500 students with nine (9) different academic disciplines.
- Oversaw Student Affairs and Housing functions, including management of Deans of Student Affairs, at over 90 campus locations.
- Oversaw and supported student-housing operations with an annual budget of over \$50 million, and \$8 million in operating income.
- Served as an international student adviser and oversaw initial approval to award F1 student visas.

Teaching, Curriculum Development Experience

Adjunct Professor, Curriculum and Course Developer (2013 – present)

Teaching in the College of Online and Continuing Education, Higher Education and Administration. During my tenure at Mesalands Community College I have developed and taught courses in the Master's Degree program at Southern New Hampshire University.

Courses Taught:

- HEA-510 Philosophy and History of Higher Education
- HEA-550 Higher Education Law and Regulations
- HEA-630 Leading Change in Higher Education
- HEA 660 Community College Administration
- HEA-690 Capstone in Higher Education

Courses Developed:

- HEA-510 Philosophy and History of Higher Education
- HEA-560 Educational Policy Making
- HEA-630 Leading Change in Higher Education
- HEA-640 Critical Issues in Student Affairs
- HEA-660 Community College Administration

Select Accomplishments:

- Served as curriculum/course developer for five (5) graduate level courses in Higher Education.

Other Professional Experience

Director of Media Relations The Southland Conference – An athletic conference for a group of ten (10) NCAA Division I Universities in Texas, Alabama, and Louisiana.

Select Accomplishments:

- Established and maintained the Southland Conference Radio Network. A group of 37 affiliate radio stations across three (3) states.
- Served as the Director of the Conference Track and Field Championships, including coordination of all events related to the championship events with over 70 paid and unpaid workers.

Assistant Director Sports Information Baylor University – A regional university with an NCAA Division I athletic department competing as a member of the Southwest Conference.

Select Accomplishments:

- Served as primary media contact for men's basketball and baseball teams and secondary contact for football team.
- Assisted with the Baylor Radio network as live on-air talent as well as statistical coordinator.
- Responsible for creation of brochures and collateral materials for athletic fundraising activities.
- NCAA Self Study Committee for initial NCAA Certification.
- Search Committee Member – Head Baseball Coach

Assistant Director Sports Information Northwestern State University – A regional university with an NCAA Division I athletic department competing as a member of the Southland Conference.

Select Accomplishments:

- University's first full-time assistant director.
- Served as primary media contact for men's basketball and baseball teams and secondary contact for football team.
- Assisted with the Demon Radio network as live on-air talent as well as statistical coordinator.
- Responsible for creation of brochures and collateral materials for athletic fundraising activities.
- Received "Best in Nation" award for 1993 Football Media Guide from the Collegiate Sports Information Directors of America (COSIDA).
- Served as the Director of the Demon Drug Abuse Resistance Education Program that used college athletes to promote drug awareness and prevention at local public schools.
- Served as Assistant Director of the Louisiana Sportswriters Association Sports Hall of Fame.

Director Sports Information Austin College – A regional college with an NAIA Division II athletic department competing as a member of the Texas Intercollegiate Athletic Association.

Select Accomplishments

- Served as Full-Time Director while completing Bachelor's Degree.

Editor DFW Community Newspapers – Editor for a group of newspapers that served 13 communities in the Dallas/Fort Worth area, that include Plano, Allen, McKinney, Frisco, and Lewisville. Accepted the position of editor upon sale of The Little Elm Journal to DFW Community Newspapers.

Select Accomplishments:

- Served as opinions editor for all 13 metro area publications.
- Served as managing editor for Frisco, Little, Elm, and Celina editions.

Owner/Publisher The Little Elm Journal – A weekly subscription based newspaper serving the cities of Little Elm and Aubrey, Texas, and other cities north of the Dallas-Fort Worth area with a circulation of over 2,000.

Select Accomplishments:

- Successfully marketed the company in order to complete profitable sale to DFW Community Newspapers.
- Increased circulation by over 125% in less than a year by expanding publication coverage area beyond Little Elm, Texas.
- Successfully developed and launched an online platform to increase revenue.
- Publication received several awards from the North and East Texas Press Association, including best publication in its subscription class.