

## Bio – Mickey D. Best, Ph.D.

Dr. Mickey D. Best most recently served as Campus President for the New Mexico State University branch campus in Grants, NM. One of four community colleges in the NMSU System, the institution is designated as a minority-majority serving college with Hispanic and Native American students constituting two-thirds of its total enrollment.

As the institution's Chief Executive Officer, Dr. Best actively consulted with local legislators and most recently attained new recurring and nonrecurring funding bolstering career and technical education, a plan to reestablish the institution's Correctional Officer Training Academy serving three regional facilities for the New Mexico Department of Corrections, and a new veteran resource center on the campus with the goal to provide enrollment and outreach service to veterans living in Cibola County New Mexico. From 2017 – 2020, Dr. Best successfully advocated to the New Mexico House of Representatives Legislative Finance Committee securing facility and infrastructure funding for the campus. Under his leadership, in 2019 a new Early College High School was established in cooperation with the Grants/Cibola County School District and New Mexico Department of Public Education. He has served as a board member of the Grants/Cibola County Chamber-of-Commerce and Cibola Communities Economic Development Foundation, as President of the Grants-Milan Rotary Club, and as Chair of the Local DWI Council of Cibola County.

Prior to his appointment at NMSU Grants, Dr. Best served as Vice President for Academic Affairs at South Arkansas Community College. He represented the institution as liaison to the Arkansas Higher Education Department and Higher Learning Commission accrediting agency and is also a Commission Peer Reviewer. In consultation with the institution's Faculty Senate, he led the process to design and implement the annual faculty development and evaluation system and introduced the new position of Assessment Coach to the four academic divisions of the College. His previous service was as Executive Dean for the Division of Liberal Arts for the Dallas College (formerly Dallas County Community College District) at the Cedar Valley College campus in Lancaster, TX, a mainly African-American serving institution. While there, he participated in the college's accreditation reaffirmation process with the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC) and founded the Developmental and Transitional Education Advisory Council to address advisement and placement for students with remediation needs in Math, Reading, and Writing.

At New Mexico Junior College in Hobbs, Dr. Best began his community college career as a full-time faculty member, and simultaneously served as Department Chair for Arts and Humanities. He is the Founding Director of the performing arts program and designed the interior staging and technical production space to establish the Watson Theatre on the campus. When he was appointed as Dean for the Division of Arts and Sciences, he directed consultations between the NM Senate Education Committee, Education Faculty, and representatives of the five public school districts of Lea County New Mexico to establish the state's first community college alternative licensure program for Elementary Education.

Dr. Best received his B.Ed. in Speech/Theatre and Psychology from Southwestern Oklahoma State University in Weatherford. He holds an MFA in Directing and Performance and a Ph.D. in Arts Administration and History, Theory, and Criticism from Texas Tech University in Lubbock.