

## **PRESS STATEMENT OF DR. BEVERLEE J. MCCLURE**

In a press statement today, Dr. Beverlee J. McClure strongly disagreed with the recent personal and professional attacks against her. The unfounded allegations made by an unsuccessful ASU job applicant against Dr. McClure are belied by the many achievements at ASU under Dr. McClure's leadership. It is well-known that when Dr. McClure accepted the position as ASU President in 2015, the University was experiencing a severe financial crisis. Unfortunately, this placed a heavy burden on the shoulders of Dr. McClure. Given the financial concerns, as well as enrollment issues due to the institution being placed on probation, hard decisions had to be made and implemented. Certain decisions resulted in a small number of the staff being upset with Dr. McClure. Nevertheless, those decisions were necessary.

Despite the many obstacles, Dr. McClure has worked hard to turn the University around and has had major successes. ASU has restructured its debt and is working to improve its financial position. ASU has also maintained affordable tuition and was the first institution in the state to offer Guaranteed Tuition. Dr. McClure was critical in obtaining the recommendation that ASU be removed from probation by the HLC Accreditation Team.

Committed to helping under-served populations, under Dr. McClure's leadership, ASU significantly increased minority student enrollment. ASU now leads the state in closing the attainment gap between Hispanic and Anglo students and increasing the four-year graduation rate 14% for Hispanic students. ASU was recently named in the Top 50 Hispanic-Serving Institutions Fundraising, and donor gifts have increased significantly. During Dr. McClure's tenure, the University efforts to expand the number of programs at the University for Veterans as well as for the incarcerated. During her tenure, ASU secured an Advance Grant to increase the number of women of color teaching in STEM fields. She has been actively involved in community and economic development, including creating a public private partnership for Industrial Hemp seed. Any suggestion that Dr. McClure is insensitive to the hard-working people of San Luis Valley is flatly denied.

After much discussion about priorities, Dr. McClure and ASU's new Board of Trustees jointly agreed that it was in the University's best interest for Dr. McClure to take a leave of absence while the parties determined the conditions of her separation. Unfortunately, individuals outside of ASU have seized on this situation to circulate false information about Dr. McClure and ASU, undermining the progress made by Dr. McClure. While Dr. McClure takes allegations of bullying seriously, the claims against her are completely false.