

## HISTORY

San Juan College was founded in 1956 as the Farmington Branch of the New Mexico College of Agriculture and Mechanical Arts. All classes were initially taught by part-time instructors during evening hours at Farmington High School. In 1958, the name was changed from Farmington Branch to San Juan Branch, NMSU.

During the 1966-67 year, the College received federal grants to construct a facility for a branch campus on 590 acres of land that the Farmington City Council returned to the Bureau of Land Management. Thus, with the first building constructed in 1967-68, San Juan Branch had a permanent site in the northern part of Farmington.

From the first phase of construction in 1967 to 1981, the College grew exponentially. As the community and local school districts invested more money and support in this university branch campus, the natural desire for more local control and autonomy arose. A successful county-wide election was held in 1981, approving of separation from NMSU and financial support for a newly created junior college district. On July 1, 1982, an independent and separate community college known officially as Junior College District of San Juan County, and informally as San Juan College, came into being.

The College supports a wide variety of instructional and support activities for academic transfer, career education, and noncredit learning activities. More importantly, however, as the College has grown, there has been an incremental growth in student population. From its modest start in 1956 with 25 students, the College now has a credit enrollment of more than 11,000 students per semester. Staff size has grown from a handful of part-time instructors to a present complement of 100 full-time faculty, 300 part-time faculty, and other staff for a total of more than 1,000 men and women to operate the College.

## ACCREDITATION AND AFFILIATION

In 2003, San Juan College became one of the first community colleges to take part in the Higher Learning Commission's Academic Quality Improvement Project, which replaces the traditional accreditation process. AQIP uses quality processes and standards to assist the institution maintain its accredited status. Membership in this accrediting association makes possible the transfer of credits to other colleges and universities. Accreditation information can be viewed by the public upon request from the San Juan College Office of Institutional Research and Planning. The college is also a member of the following organizations:

Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology \*  
 American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers  
 American Association of Community Colleges  
 American Association of School Administrators  
 American College Unions International  
 American Dental Association (ADA)  
 American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA)  
 American Dental Education Association (ADEA)  
 American Health Information Management Association\*  
 American Society for Clinical Laboratory Science  
 American Society for Clinical Pathology  
 American Veterinary Medical Association  
 American Physical Therapy Association\*  
 American Vocational Association  
 Association of Collegiate Business Schools and Programs\*  
 College Reading and Learning Association\*  
 Commission on Accreditation for Physical Therapy Education\*  
 Commission on Accreditation for Respiratory Care\*  
 Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs\*  
 Commission on Dental Accreditation\*  
 Consortium of College Testing Centers  
 Council for the Advancement and Support of Education  
 Council for Occupational Educators  
 Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools\*  
 International Fire Service Accreditation Congress  
 Learning Resources Network  
 National Academy of Early Childhood Programs  
 National Accrediting Agency for Clinical Laboratory Sciences\*  
 National Association for Campus Activities  
 National Association for the Education of Young Children\*  
 National Association of College and University Business Officers  
 National Automotive Technicians Education Foundation  
 National Business Incubator Association  
 National Council of Instructional Administrators  
 National Initiative for Leadership and Institutional Effectiveness  
 National Institute for Staff and Organizational Development  
 National League for Nursing Accrediting Commission, Inc.\*  
 New Mexico Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admission Officers  
 New Mexico Association of Student Financial Aid Administrators  
 New Mexico Consortium of Academic Libraries  
 New Mexico Education Council  
 New Mexico Independent Community Colleges  
 New Mexico Placement Council  
 Rocky Mountain Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers  
 San Juan Association for Retarded Citizens and Services to the Physically Handicapped  
 Southwest Business Deans Association

\*accreditation