NMSU looks ahead despite additional state cuts in higher education
Samantha Lewis

Decreasing student enrollment and state budget cuts in higher education has left New Mexico State University in a bind.

Over the past three fiscal years NMSU has had to cut over 32 million from the university budget.

Earlier this month, the state approved the cut of another $10 million in funding to NMSU.

KFOX14 had the exclusive interview with NMSU Chancellor Garrey Carruthers, who said, despite tough times, the university is looking ahead.

“I believe the state needs to begin to ponder new revenue sources because all agencies are suffering,” Carruthers said.

On top of budget shortfalls, Carruthers said, the university is also battling a drop in student retention and a decrease in enrollment.

To help balance the budget in 2017 and 2018, Carruthers said the university plans to revamp the way it markets to students in Latin American countries.

“We will allow Mexican students who qualify to come here and then they will pay 1.5 times the student tuition, which is the rate we charge to students in 11 of the western states,” Carruthers said.

NMSU will also focus on marketing to students from Southern California, Arizona, Colorado, Texas and New Mexico.

Right now, the university is focusing on increasing the student retention rate with a new advising center.

“We’re probably going to remodel one building on the campus and everything to do with students' financial aid, advising, everything will be in that building,” Carruthers said.

Carruthers added that the university plans to make administrative functions much more efficient with a new software system that could help save NMSU $1.8 million-$2.8 million a year.

Looking ahead, to the 2018 fiscal year, Carruthers said students may see an increase in their tuition if the state calls for additional reductions to the university's funding.