This year…

This is an invitation to participate in New Mexico Higher Education Assessment Association’s Summer Retreat at The Lodge at Sierra Blanca and The Ruidoso Convention Center, in beautiful Ruidoso, New Mexico, June 28-July 1, 2015. The Retreat will be open to teams of four members. Should your college accept this opportunity and challenge, institutional teams will focus on college-specific and assessable projects and can expect to return to campus with clear approaches and preliminary action plans.

One member of each team must be designated as the team leader. The leader will be responsible for staying in contact with the Retreat director, completing the Retreat application form, initiating the processing of the attached invoices (which should be started ASAP), coordinating the post-retreat work presentations, and submitting post-retreat documents.

The Retreat’s facilitators will be Pierre Laroche and Dr. Susan Wood; each is a long-standing participant and organizer of the NMHEAA’s annual conference and the NMHEAA’s Retreat. Accomplished institutional and regional assessment leaders, Laroche & Wood have strong and diverse backgrounds spanning accreditation, classroom and program assessment, qualitative and quantitative assessment measures, and institutional leadership. The total cost of the Retreat for a team will be $2,650—$ 700 for additional team members—which does not include travel expenses for your team. The NMHEAA will pay the balance of the costs. Some choose to arrive early or stay a bit later; additional overnight arrangements at the bargain retreat price can be made with the Lodge at Sierra Blanca, the traditional hotel for the retreat <http://www.thelodgeatsierrablanca.com/>.

The Retreat will begin with an introductory social on Sunday evening, June 28th; this will be a chance to meet other team members, exchange ideas, participate in a minimally humiliating ice-breaker and appreciate the cooler climes of Ruidoso. An integral part of the Retreat experience, Sunday’s festivities build on our tradition: supporting learning and educational services at your institution in a relaxed setting that encourages community and divergent thinking. The Retreat will be appropriate for institutional teams that need the time and change of location to think clearly and deliberately about the next appropriate step in assessment at their respective institutions.

As usual, we encourage projects on subjects as wide-ranging as general education, freshmen seminars, learning communities, faculty development, standardized assessment and placement instruments, student services, and technology; if your institutional team plans to work on a concern that diverges greatly from these make sure that we know ahead of time so we can better support your experience.

Teams will be asked to develop a concrete initiative to begin in the fall of 2015; it will be the subject of a "poster-presentation" at the 2016 NMHEAR Conference. Any time you spend organizing a project prior to the Retreat will be time well spent. We do not expect the end of this Retreat to be the end of your project. The Retreat will be a way for your institution to create a plan for measuring some outcomes you value highly. However, it will only be a start…a way to honestly work through a problem and plan a solution that will show results over time. This retreat is an opportunity to work with colleagues on tricky problems, to work with assessment leaders, and to assert your college and yourself as regional leaders.
This is intended to be a relaxed, informal, collegial Retreat...a time for thoughtfully addressing assessment issues outside the pressures of everyday institutional life. Although you may begin the planning of projects that will require hard work and persistence in their completion, the idea is to avoid the pressure of deadlines and budget crunches at the Retreat itself. Participants are encouraged to wear relaxing clothes, remove the furrows from their brows, begin smiling, and enjoy the cool, clean air of south central New Mexico's mountains. The schedule provides time for individual activities before, during and after the Retreat. After a decade of success, the Retreat staff is certain that the thinking and planning in this atmosphere will be worth the investment your institution and the NMHEAA is making in your efforts.
Sunday, June 28
7:00 p.m.  Retreat Social; welcome and introductions

Monday, June 29
8:00 a.m.  Breakfast; Retreat staff and facilitators final planning meeting
9:00 a.m.  Laroche & Wood mini-workshop begins
10:00 a.m. Participants begin to define project plan
12:00 p.m. Working lunch provided, Laroche & Wood and retreat staff circulate
3:30 p.m.  Participants report to whole group on nature of project and beginning of plan
5:00 p.m.  Individual relaxation in beautiful Ruidoso
6:00 p.m.  Networking in the Lodge Lounge
7:00 p.m.  Depart for small group dinner (participants pay for this one)

Tuesday, June 30
8:00 a.m.  Breakfast
9:00 a.m.  Laroche & Wood mini-workshop begins
11:00 a.m. Participants work with Laroche & Wood and retreat staff on drafting an action plan
12:00 p.m. Working lunch provided, Laroche & Wood and retreat staff circulate
2:00 p.m.  Group as a whole makes plans for 2016 NMHEAR conference
2:30 p.m.  Individual relaxation in beautiful Ruidoso
6:00 p.m.  Networking in the Lounge
7:00 p.m.  Dinner, provided by the NMHEAA

Wednesday, July 1
8:00 a.m.  Breakfast
9:00 a.m.  Participants finalize plan and presentation
10:00 a.m. Participants offer brief presentations of progress
11:15 a.m. Observations and closing remarks
11:45 a.m. Retreat concludes
For registration at NMHEAA Summer Retreat Sunday, June 28, through Wednesday noon, July 1, 2015, (including registration fee, hotel expenses for Sunday, Monday and Tuesday nights and five meals) for three attendees and a team leader: $2,650.00
Additional team members: $700.00 each

Retreat planning requires that institutional arrangements be guaranteed no later than April 3rd.
Registration after April 3rd: $2,850.00
Registration after May 8th: $3,050.00

Institution: ________________________________
Individual or Team Members: ____________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________
________________________________________

Indicate with an asterisk (*) the team member who will serve as team leader
Team leader’s phone: _________________________________ email: __________
Principal supervisor’s phone: _______________________________ email: __________

Registration may be paid by check, purchase order, or credit card.
Credit Cardholder’s name: _______________________________________
Credit Card number: _____________________________________________
Expiration date: ________________________________________________
If paying by Purchase Order, please provide PO number: _________________
Make checks payable to the NMHEAA, Inc.  No refunds will be made after May 8, 2013.

Return registration form and fees to: Eastern New Mexico University
Planning Services, Station 2,
Attn: Cristine Watson
Portales, NM 88130
(575) 562-2315; FAX (575) 562-2244
For additional retreat/registration information, contact Pierre Laroche at (575)649-2972 or Pierre.Laroche@enmu.edu.