

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING JANUARY 17, 2024 "NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS DAY" IN THE  
3 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

4  
5 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university has been an  
6 important educational, cultural, social and economic asset in  
7 New Mexico, particularly northern New Mexico, since 1893; and

8 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university serves almost  
9 three thousand students each year and has more than five  
10 hundred employees at the school's main campus and centers;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, the vision of New Mexico highlands university  
13 is to be a premier university, transforming lives and  
14 communities now and for generations to come; and

15 WHEREAS, the core values of New Mexico highlands  
16 university are excellence, diversity, accessibility and  
17 responsiveness; and

18 WHEREAS, the priorities of New Mexico highlands  
19 university are academic excellence, academic integration and  
20 student success; strategic enrollment management; vibrant  
21 campus and university life; community partnerships;  
22 technological advancement and innovation; and enhanced  
23 communication and efficiency across the university; and

24 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university effectively  
25 serves students across the state and beyond its borders,

1 online and on its campuses and centers in Las Vegas, Santa  
2 Fe, Farmington, Rio Rancho and Albuquerque; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university educates many  
4 first-generation students, transforming their lives and the  
5 lives of their families and future generations; and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university has many active  
7 alumni, representing every state, many countries and nineteen  
8 tribes and pueblos, and seeks to effectively reach out to all  
9 alumni through the establishment of a vibrant alumni  
10 association board of directors while offering engaging events  
11 for alumni and community members; and

12 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university was named one  
13 of the most diverse regional universities in the west, a top  
14 one hundred best regional university in the west and one of  
15 the top fifty public universities in the west by *U.S. News &*  
16 *World Report* in 2023; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university also ranked  
18 fifty-fifth among all universities in *U.S. News & World*  
19 *Report's* 2023 social mobility rankings and was recognized as  
20 one of the top one hundred colleges and universities for  
21 Hispanic students by the *Hispanic Outlook on Education* in  
22 2021; and

23 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university continues to  
24 demonstrate diversity as an institutional value through a  
25 number of partnerships with other New Mexico higher education

1 institutions, including working in tandem with New Mexico  
2 state university, eastern New Mexico university and New  
3 Mexico's developmental disabilities council; and

4 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university received one  
5 million dollars (\$1,000,000) from the federal government to  
6 support the New Mexico reforestation center's seed bank and  
7 seed collection efforts, and New Mexico highlands university  
8 works closely with its partners to meet New Mexico's current  
9 and future reforestation needs; and

10 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university is home to the  
11 Native American social work studies institute, which includes  
12 programs and initiatives serving Native American people, and  
13 continues to achieve success in the alternative teaching  
14 program while expanding the professional development school  
15 model in teacher education; and

16 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university recently  
17 developed several new degree programs that have resulted in  
18 the enrollment of more than three hundred new students,  
19 including master of arts in criminology; master of arts in  
20 cultural resource management; bachelor of science in wildlife  
21 biology and conservation; and bachelor of arts in general  
22 business; and

23 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university added new  
24 programs in biology, entrepreneurship, cultural resource  
25 management and criminal justice; and

1           WHEREAS, the New Mexico highlands university school of  
2 education received ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) to  
3 support a new institute for culturally and linguistically  
4 responsive learning and teaching; and

5           WHEREAS, the New Mexico highlands university Facundo  
6 Valdez school of social work receives one million six hundred  
7 thousand dollars (\$1,600,000) in federal funding annually  
8 through Title IV-E, earmarked for training social workers in  
9 New Mexico to work in child welfare; and

10           WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university is piloting a  
11 new student mental health initiative to support student  
12 wellness, with funding from the higher education department,  
13 to be used to assess the impact of a new model of care that  
14 uses health and wellness coaching to assist students in  
15 navigating college experiences; and

16           WHEREAS, one hundred sixty-one New Mexico highlands  
17 university athletes, representing more than fifty percent of  
18 all New Mexico highlands university student athletes, earned  
19 a cumulative grade point average of three or higher, with  
20 ninety-three athletes earning a three-and-five-tenths grade  
21 point average or higher and twenty earning averages of four  
22 points, and student athletes contributed more than three  
23 thousand hours of community service; and

24           WHEREAS, the New Mexico highlands university men's  
25 cross-country team qualified for the national collegiate

1 athletic association national championship, and two-time all-  
2 American Andrew Amore finished fifth nationally and first in  
3 the Rocky mountain athletic conference championship; and

4 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university is a federally  
5 designated Hispanic-serving institution, with more than fifty  
6 percent enrolled Hispanic students, and strives to be a  
7 Native-American-serving institution, with nine percent  
8 enrolled Native American students; and

9 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university welcomes  
10 students from northern New Mexico, all of New Mexico, the  
11 United States and the world;

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
13 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that January 17,  
14 2024 be declared "New Mexico Highlands Day" in the house of  
15 representatives; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New Mexico highlands  
17 university be commended for its service and dedication to the  
18 residents of New Mexico; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
20 transmitted to the president of New Mexico highlands  
21 university.

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