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SENATE MEMORIAL 18

57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE SUCCESSES AND VISION OF NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY; ENCOURAGING THE LEGISLATURE TO SUPPORT NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY'S REQUEST FOR FUNDING FOR A MASTER PLAN TO MODERNIZE THE UNIVERSITY CAMPUS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university is a public university in Las Vegas that was founded in 1893 and that has centers in Santa Fe, Albuquerque, Rio Rancho and Farmington; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university's mission is to offer a high-quality education to students at all levels while fostering creativity, critical thinking and research, and the university's core values are excellence, diversity, accessibility and responsiveness; and

WHEREAS, the university is accredited by the higher

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1 learning commission, and many of the university's programs have
2 specialty accreditation, including: the school of education,
3 which received full accreditation by the national council for
4 accreditation of teacher education in 2012; the school of
5 business, media and technology, which is accredited by the
6 association of collegiate business schools and programs; the
7 Facundo Valdez school of social work, which is accredited by
8 the council on social work education; the school of social and
9 behavioral sciences, which is accredited by the masters in
10 psychology and counseling accreditation council; and the
11 department of forestry, which is accredited by the society of
12 American foresters and is the only forestry program accredited
13 in New Mexico; and

14 WHEREAS, the university is home to a center for excellence
15 in social work, the Native American social work studies
16 institute and the institute for culturally and linguistically
17 responsive learning and teaching; and

18 WHEREAS, the Calf canyon and Hermits peak fire in 2022,
19 the largest and most destructive wildfire in New Mexico's
20 history, had a negative impact on the university's students,
21 and flooding in the area following the fire also had a negative
22 impact on the university community and continues to impact
23 water quality on the main campus; and

24 WHEREAS, the university's vision is to be a premier
25 comprehensive university; to transform lives and the community

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1 now and for generations to come; to foster a dynamic and
2 inclusive academic environment in which students can thrive
3 within and beyond the classroom; and to propel the university
4 toward a future of growth, excellence and community engagement;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, the university is committed to increasing student
7 enrollment on campus by cultivating an engaging and vibrant
8 academic experience. A focus of this work will be to expand
9 face-to-face instruction to ensure that the university's
10 students benefit from personal interaction with faculty and
11 peers and strengthen their academic and social connections; and

12 WHEREAS, to attract top-tier student-athletes and enhance
13 its competitive edge, the university plans to prioritize the
14 renovation of its athletic facilities, which will provide
15 students with state-of-the-art spaces for training and
16 competition and will position the university as a premier
17 institution for athletic and academic achievement; and

18 WHEREAS, regarding student retention, the university's
19 plan focuses on creating pathways for students to achieve long-
20 term success by enhancing student engagement through terminal
21 degree programs and implementing academic support systems and
22 mentoring programs that foster persistence and academic
23 excellence and that support students through graduation; and

24 WHEREAS, another issue of importance for the university is
25 ensuring the availability of good quality student housing,

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1 which is crucial to the university community's growth; and

2 WHEREAS, the university plans to address the lack of
3 adequate housing by constructing new multi-use facilities or
4 renovating existing noncompliant buildings, which will provide
5 safe, modern living spaces that support student well-being and
6 academic success; and

7 WHEREAS, to further enhance community engagement and meet
8 housing needs, the university plans to explore the potential of
9 utilizing university-owned property for new housing
10 developments, which will not only address the demand for local
11 housing but also foster a closer connection between the
12 university and the surrounding community; and

13 WHEREAS, to better serve its diverse student body, the
14 university plans to invest in the modernization of student
15 services through increasing the university's online presence,
16 enhancing library technology and expanding the university's
17 functional capacity, making it easier for students to interact
18 with the university for all services, including enrollment,
19 academic support, financial aid and career services; and

20 WHEREAS, the university's plans and goals for continued
21 growth and improvements will be implemented in part through
22 completion of a master plan to modernize the university's main
23 campus;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
25 OF NEW MEXICO that the successes and vision of New Mexico

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1 highlands university be recognized; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislature be encouraged
3 to support the university's request for one hundred thousand
4 dollars (\$100,000) to design and develop a master plan for the
5 modernization of New Mexico highlands university's main campus;
6 and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
8 transmitted to the president of New Mexico highlands
9 university, the speaker of the house of representatives and the
10 president pro tempore of the senate.