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HOUSE MEMORIAL 14

**52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

INTRODUCED BY

Sheryl Williams Stapleton

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, THE PUBLIC  
EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS DEPARTMENT TO  
COLLABORATE ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HIGH-QUALITY CAREER  
PATHWAYS THAT BRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULA, POST-SECONDARY  
STUDIES AND TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY JOB OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL NEW  
MEXICO STUDENTS.

WHEREAS, a highly skilled and well-educated work force is  
a critical component of the New Mexico economy; and

WHEREAS, a 2013 study by Georgetown university indicates  
that there will be three hundred thirty-five thousand job  
openings in New Mexico by 2020, with significant job growth  
rates in the fields of science, technology, engineering,  
mathematics, health care and education; and

WHEREAS, most of the new jobs created in New Mexico will

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1 require at least some post-secondary education and training,  
2 including industry certifications; and

3 WHEREAS, career and technical education programs with  
4 rigorous academic content tied to technical subject matter,  
5 internships and other cooperative work experiences, can help  
6 students obtain industry certificates and credentials necessary  
7 to meet New Mexico's work force needs; and

8 WHEREAS, the work force demands of the future could be met  
9 by preparing current secondary students through career and  
10 technical education programs that establish career pathways;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, it is important to strengthen the connection  
13 between career and technical education programs and the state's  
14 work force demands; and

15 WHEREAS, a significant collaboration among private sector  
16 industries, higher education institutions, work force  
17 development agencies and public schools could help the state  
18 address its current and future work force demands; and

19 WHEREAS, clearly structured and coordinated pathways to  
20 advanced educational opportunities could assist students in  
21 developing expectations for occupational and salary outcomes as  
22 they progress through career pathways to greater levels of  
23 educational attainment and career advancement;

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
25 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the higher

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1 education department, the public education department and the  
2 workforce solutions department be requested to collaborate on  
3 high-quality career pathways that bridge high school curricula,  
4 post-secondary studies and twenty-first century job  
5 opportunities for all New Mexico students; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the departments engage  
7 relevant stakeholders to develop policies and initiatives that  
8 close the gap between career pathway study programs and work  
9 force opportunities; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the departments, in  
11 collaboration with relevant stakeholders, establish policy  
12 initiatives to create guidance systems for career information,  
13 exploration and advisement for secondary students and early  
14 advanced credential programs for students pursuing economically  
15 viable career pathways; and

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the departments report their  
17 findings and progress to the legislative education study  
18 committee no later than November 1, 2015; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
20 transmitted to the governor, the secretary of higher education,  
21 the secretary of public education and the secretary of  
22 workforce solutions.