

1 SENATE MEMORIAL 120

2 **52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2015**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Gerald Ortiz y Pino

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10 A MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE BOARD OF REGENTS OF NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS  
12 UNIVERSITY TO CONSIDER RENAMING THE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL WORK IN  
13 HONOR OF FACUNDO B. VALDEZ.

14  
15 WHEREAS, the school of social work at New Mexico highlands  
16 university has been accredited by the council on social work  
17 education since 1978 and is accredited through 2020; and

18 WHEREAS, the mission of the school of social work is to  
19 educate students to practice social work competently with the  
20 diverse, multicultural populations of New Mexico and the  
21 southwest; and

22 WHEREAS, the school of social work offers the master of  
23 social work degree program at the main campus in Las Vegas and  
24 at the school's four campuses in Albuquerque, Rio Rancho,  
25 Farmington and Roswell; and

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1           WHEREAS, Facundo B. Valdez was instrumental in shaping the  
2 school of social work at New Mexico highlands university; and

3           WHEREAS, Facundo earned a bachelor of arts degree in  
4 social science and biology from New Mexico highlands university  
5 in 1958, a master's degree in history from New Mexico highlands  
6 university in 1960 and a master's degree in social work from  
7 the university of Denver in 1963; and

8           WHEREAS, Facundo's major pioneering effort was in planning  
9 and development of a graduate and undergraduate social work  
10 program at New Mexico highlands university; and

11           WHEREAS, from 1972 to 1979, Facundo was an associate  
12 professor of social work and director of the social work  
13 program for the graduate and undergraduate departments at New  
14 Mexico highlands university; and

15           WHEREAS, under Facundo's direction, both programs were  
16 implemented and gained full accreditation from the council on  
17 social work education; and

18           WHEREAS, from 1980 to 1987, Facundo was a professor of  
19 social work for New Mexico highlands university, where he  
20 taught courses in community development, mental health planning  
21 and management; and

22           WHEREAS, at times during his career, Facundo was a  
23 consultant on rural problems for the national volunteers in  
24 service to America program and a consultant to rural community  
25 development at the university of Oklahoma and also at the

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1 university of Colorado; and

2 WHEREAS, Facundo was a founding member of the national  
3 council of la raza and held many other consultant positions,  
4 primarily in the area of migration and Mexican American needs,  
5 food and nutrition and health issues of Hispanic groups; and

6 WHEREAS, Facundo remained active in championing  
7 educational and mental health causes until his death on August  
8 3, 2014; and

9 WHEREAS, a fitting recognition of Facundo's groundbreaking  
10 work to establish the first bachelor's and master's degree  
11 programs in social work at New Mexico highlands university  
12 would be to rename the school of social work in his honor;

13 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
14 OF NEW MEXICO that the board of regents of New Mexico highlands  
15 university be requested to consider renaming the school of  
16 social work the Facundo B. Valdez school of social work in  
17 recognition of Facundo's contributions to the school of social  
18 work; and

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

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