

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 15

2 **52ND LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2016**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 John Pinto

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 SUPPORTING THE PASSAGE OF THE DINE COLLEGE ACT OF 2015 INTO
12 FEDERAL LAW.

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14 WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico and the Navajo Nation
15 maintain a government-to-government relationship, and the
16 Navajo people residing in the state are citizens of both New
17 Mexico and the Navajo Nation; and

18 WHEREAS, in 1968, the Navajo Nation established Navajo
19 community college, which later became Diné college, to provide
20 access to higher education to the Navajo people; and

21 WHEREAS, Diné college's New Mexico flagship campus is
22 located in Shiprock, and there is a community campus center in
23 Crownpoint; and

24 WHEREAS, Diné college has dual credit agreements with
25 school districts and schools in New Mexico, including the

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1 Central consolidated school district, Gallup-McKinley county
2 school district, Magdalena municipal school district, Navajo
3 preparatory school, Shiprock alternative school, inc., Wingate
4 high school and the Alamo Navajo community school; and

5 WHEREAS, the state of New Mexico provides support to Diné
6 college through its higher education department by way of
7 higher education capital outlay projects, the tribal college
8 dual credit funding program and high school equivalency
9 credential program grants; and

10 WHEREAS, the United States congress passed the Navajo
11 Community College Act of 1971, the Navajo Community College
12 Assistance Act of 1978 and the Navajo Nation Higher Education
13 Act of 2008, which collectively provide for maintenance,
14 operation and construction funding for Diné college; and

15 WHEREAS, Representative Ann Kirkpatrick from Arizona
16 introduced the Dine College Act of 2015 "to fulfill the United
17 States Government's trust responsibility to serve the higher
18 education needs of the Navajo people and to clarify, unify, and
19 modernize prior Diné College legislation", and Diné college has
20 asked Senator Jeff Flake from Arizona to introduce a senate
21 companion bill;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
23 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state of New Mexico stand in
24 support of the passage of the Dine College Act of 2015 and urge
25 the New Mexico congressional delegation to work to ensure its

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1 passage into federal law; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
3 transmitted to the secretary of higher education, the governor,
4 the New Mexico congressional delegation, the speaker of the
5 United States house of representatives, the president of the
6 United States senate and the president of the United States.

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