

1 HOUSE BILL 253

2 **54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Elizabeth "Liz" Thomson and Kelly K. Fajardo

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10 AN ACT

11 MAKING AN APPROPRIATION FOR A STATEWIDE HIGHER EDUCATION AND
12 WORKFORCE CAREER PATHWAYS PROGRAM.

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14 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

15 SECTION 1. APPROPRIATION.--

16 A. Eleven million four hundred ninety-three
17 thousand dollars (\$11,493,000) is appropriated from the general
18 fund to the higher education department for expenditure in
19 fiscal years 2020 through 2023 for Santa Fe community college
20 to administer the SUN PATH consortium program, which is a
21 nationally recognized program that breaks down higher education
22 and work force silos, provides student-centered, guided career
23 pathways, enables students to complete certificate or degree
24 programs faster, promotes collaboration and efficient
25 governance via eleven community colleges and New Mexico

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1 employers and provides a sound education and workforce
2 alignment investment.

3 B. Santa Fe community college shall initially focus
4 funding to sustain and expand community college participation
5 in SUN PATH and on accelerating students through health care
6 training programs at community colleges directly into the
7 workforce but shall expand the program by region as appropriate
8 to other in-demand industries such as energy, information
9 technology and the elementary and secondary education
10 workforce. Funding shall be used to leverage funds of state
11 institutions of higher education and the workforce solutions
12 department and other available funding. Participating in SUN
13 PATH requires community colleges to collect, measure and
14 analyze data on program and student outcomes. Any unexpended
15 or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year
16 2023 shall revert to the general fund.