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SENATE MEMORIAL 53

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 23, 2023 "NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS DAY" IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university has been an important educational, cultural, social and economic asset in New Mexico, particularly northern New Mexico, since 1893; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university serves almost three thousand students each year and has more than five hundred employees at the school's main campus and centers; and

WHEREAS, the vision of New Mexico highlands university is to be a premier university, transforming lives and communities now and for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the core values of New Mexico highlands university are excellence, diversity, accessibility and responsiveness; and

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1 WHEREAS, the priorities of New Mexico highlands university
2 are academic excellence, academic integration and student
3 success; strategic enrollment management; vibrant campus and
4 university life; community partnerships; technological
5 advancement and innovation; and enhanced communication and
6 efficiency across the university; and

7 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university effectively
8 serves students across the state and beyond its borders, online
9 and on its campuses and centers in Las Vegas, Santa Fe,
10 Farmington, Rio Rancho and Albuquerque; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university educates many
12 first-generation students, transforming their lives and the
13 lives of their families and future generations; and

14 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university has many active
15 alumni, representing every state, many countries and nineteen
16 tribes and pueblos, and seeks to effectively reach out to all
17 alumni through the establishment of a vibrant alumni
18 association board of directors while offering engaging events
19 for alumni and community members; and

20 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university was named one of
21 the most diverse regional universities in the west, a top one
22 hundred best regional university in the west and one of the top
23 sixty public universities in the west by *U.S. News & World*
24 *Report*; and

25 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university is also ranked

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1 seventy-sixth in the top one hundred among all universities
2 nationwide on *U.S. News & World Report's* top performers on
3 social mobility list and was recognized as one of the top one
4 hundred colleges and universities for Hispanics published in
5 the *Hispanic Outlook for Higher Education's* October 2021 issue;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university continues to
8 demonstrate diversity as an institutional value through a
9 number of partnerships with other New Mexico higher education
10 institutions, including working in tandem with New Mexico state
11 university, eastern New Mexico university and New Mexico's
12 developmental disabilities council; and

13 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university received one
14 million dollars (\$1,000,000) from the federal government to
15 support the New Mexico reforestation center's seed bank and
16 seed collection efforts, and New Mexico highlands university
17 works closely with its partners to meet New Mexico's current
18 and future reforestation needs; and

19 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university is home to the
20 Native American social work studies institute, which includes
21 programs and initiatives serving Native American people, and
22 continues to achieve success in the alternative teaching
23 program while expanding the professional development school
24 model in teacher education; and

25 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university launched a new

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1 distance education partnership designed to increase student
2 enrollment, and the school's success coach student-mentoring
3 program model has contributed to a historic retention rate in
4 2022; and

5 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university recently
6 developed new degree programs: master of arts in criminology;
7 master of arts in cultural resource management; bachelor of
8 science in wildlife biology and conservation; bachelor of arts
9 in organizational leadership in public safety; bachelor of arts
10 and sciences in general business; master of business
11 administration in health care administration; and master of
12 social work; and

13 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university added new
14 programs in biology, entrepreneurship, cultural resource
15 management and criminal justice; and

16 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university was awarded
17 twenty million five hundred thousand dollars (\$20,500,000) in
18 endowment funding from the higher education department to
19 bolster its education, social work and nursing degree programs;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, the New Mexico highlands university school of
22 education received ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) to support
23 a new institute for culturally and linguistically responsive
24 learning and teaching; and

25 WHEREAS, the New Mexico highlands university Facundo

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1 Valdez school of social work receives one million six hundred
2 thousand dollars (\$1,600,000) in federal funding annually
3 through Title IV-E, earmarked for training social workers in
4 New Mexico to work in child welfare; and

5 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university is piloting a new
6 student mental health initiative to support student wellness,
7 with funding from the higher education department, to be used
8 to assess the impact of a new model of care that uses health
9 and wellness coaching to assist students in navigating college
10 experiences; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university is addressing
12 students' basic needs through the implementation of the
13 highlands caring about food equity project with funding from
14 the higher education department to be used to overcome the
15 stigma related to food insecurity and will administer the basic
16 needs survey in spring 2023 as part of the statewide initiative
17 to combat food and housing insecurities at colleges, a first
18 survey of its kind in the nation; and

19 WHEREAS, two hundred thirty-eight New Mexico highlands
20 university athletes earned a cumulative grade point average of
21 three or higher; seventy-seven athletes earned a cumulative
22 three and five-tenths grade point average or higher; seventeen
23 athletes earned a four-point grade average; twenty athletes
24 were recognized as all-Rocky mountain athletic conference
25 performers; seventeen athletes were recognized as Rocky

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1 mountain athletic conference academic performers; six athletes
2 were recognized as Rocky mountain athletic conference athlete
3 of the week; four athletes were recognized as national
4 collegiate athletic association all-Americans; one athlete was
5 an elite ninety recipient; and athletes contributed more than
6 two thousand hours of community service; and

7 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university is a federally
8 designated Hispanic-serving institution, with more than fifty
9 percent enrolled Hispanic students, and strives to be a Native-
10 American-serving institution, with nine percent enrolled Native
11 American students; and

12 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university welcomes students
13 from northern New Mexico, all of New Mexico, the United States
14 and the world;

15 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
16 OF NEW MEXICO that February 23, 2023 be declared "New Mexico
17 Highlands Day" in the senate; and

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New Mexico highlands
19 university be commended for its service and dedication to the
20 residents of New Mexico; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
22 transmitted to the president of New Mexico highlands
23 university.