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HOUSE MEMORIAL 6  
**56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2024**  
INTRODUCED BY  
Ambrose Castellano

A MEMORIAL  
DECLARING JANUARY 17, 2024 "NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS DAY" IN THE  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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 fifty public universities in the west by *U.S. News & World*  
24 *Report* in 2023; and

25           WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university also ranked

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1 fifty-fifth among all universities in *U.S. News & World*  
2 *Report's* 2023 social mobility rankings and was recognized as  
3 one of the top one hundred colleges and universities for  
4 Hispanic students by the *Hispanic Outlook on Education* in 2021;  
5 and

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

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

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

24 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university recently  
25 developed several new degree programs that have resulted in the

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1 enrollment of more than three hundred new students, including  
2 master of arts in criminology; master of arts in cultural  
3 resource management; bachelor of science in wildlife biology  
4 and conservation; and bachelor of arts in general business; and

5 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university added new  
6 programs in biology, entrepreneurship, cultural resource  
7 management and criminal justice; and

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

12 WHEREAS, the New Mexico highlands university Facundo  
13 Valdez school of social work receives one million six hundred  
14 thousand dollars (\$1,600,000) in federal funding annually  
15 through Title IV-E, earmarked for training social workers in  
16 New Mexico to work in child welfare; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university is piloting a new  
18 student mental health initiative to support student wellness,  
19 with funding from the higher education department, to be used  
20 to assess the impact of a new model of care that uses health  
21 and wellness coaching to assist students in navigating college  
22 experiences; and

23 WHEREAS, one hundred sixty-one New Mexico highlands  
24 university athletes, representing more than fifty percent of  
25 all New Mexico highlands university student athletes, earned a

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1 cumulative grade point average of three or higher, with ninety-  
2 three athletes earning a three-and-five-tenths grade point  
3 average or higher and twenty earning averages of four points,  
4 and student athletes contributed more than three thousand hours  
5 of community service; and

6 WHEREAS, the New Mexico highlands university men's cross-  
7 country team qualified for the national collegiate athletic  
8 association national championship, and two-time all-American  
9 Andrew Amore finished fifth nationally and first in the Rocky  
10 mountain athletic conference championship; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university is a federally  
12 designated Hispanic-serving institution, with more than fifty  
13 percent enrolled Hispanic students, and strives to be a Native-  
14 American-serving institution, with nine percent enrolled Native  
15 American students; and

16 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university welcomes students  
17 from northern New Mexico, all of New Mexico, the United States  
18 and the world;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that January 17,  
21 2024 be declared "New Mexico Highlands Day" in the house of  
22 representatives; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New Mexico highlands  
24 university be commended for its service and dedication to the  
25 residents of New Mexico; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
2 transmitted to the president of New Mexico highlands  
3 university.

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