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SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 50

**44TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1999**

INTRODUCED BY

John Arthur Smith

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION TO IDENTIFY  
STRENGTHS AND WEAKNESSES OF POST-SECONDARY EDUCATIONAL  
INSTITUTIONS AND OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE THE USE OF  
TECHNOLOGY IN DELIVERY OF EDUCATIONAL SERVICES.

WHEREAS, investments in higher education promote the  
quality of life in New Mexico for all residents and enable  
individuals to lead productive lives; and

WHEREAS, citizens who enroll in higher education are more  
likely to earn higher incomes and vote in elections; and

WHEREAS, an educated citizenry reduces state costs for  
welfare and corrections; and

WHEREAS, investments in higher education promote the  
common good and benefit all; and

WHEREAS, the legislature has determined that the

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1 continued proliferation of campuses around the state is not in  
2 the state's best interest; and

3 WHEREAS, the legislature has explicitly directed that  
4 emphasis should be placed on the use of technology for  
5 extended learning rather than on the traditional "bricks and  
6 mortar" expansion of our existing institutions; and

7 WHEREAS, public higher education receives more than five  
8 hundred million dollars (\$500,000,000) in annual  
9 appropriations from the general fund;

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
11 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the commission on higher education be  
12 requested to identify:

- 13 A. strengths and weaknesses of the existing  
14 network of colleges and universities in New Mexico;
- 15 B. factors causing change within higher education  
16 as we move into the twenty-first century;
- 17 C. alternative models for delivering educational  
18 services that do not require the expansion of the "bricks and  
19 mortar" approach;
- 20 D. state-level policies that will expand the use  
21 of technology by faculty in the teaching and learning process  
22 and promote collaboration and partnerships among the  
23 institutions and with the public schools and the private  
24 sector;
- 25 E. funding incentives that might be implemented to

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1 achieve key state goals and maximize the benefits from the  
2 public investment in higher education; and

3 F. policy recommendations to promote an efficient  
4 and high quality student-centered network of higher education  
5 services so that public higher education in New Mexico is  
6 poised to meet challenges of the twenty-first century; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the commission on higher  
8 education present a preliminary report to the legislative  
9 finance committee and other appropriate legislative committees  
10 by November 1, 1999 and its final report by November 1, 2000;  
11 and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to the commission on higher education.