



A Place for Individual Excellence

November 9, 2017

Mr. E. Paul Torres, Chairman All Pueblo Council of Governors 2401 12th Street, N.W. Suite 2145 Albuquerque New Mexico 87104

Dear Mr. Torres:

I am writing in full and unequivocal support of Resolution APCG 2017-06 titled Endorsement to Establish a Native American Social Work Studies Program at New Mexico Highlands University, which was signed by the APCG on May 22, 2017.

For many years, Highlands University has operated an excellent and fully accredited program in social work and the program's reputation is well known throughout the state, region, and beyond. In addition, our commitment to serve all citizens of New Mexico, particularly those who face daunting social, economic, health, and other challenges is embodied in our Mission Statement. We take that mission seriously each and every day.

For these reasons, among others, we are very interested in establishing a Native American Social Work Program at Highlands. It is my hope that the fully developed program will assist tribal peoples in New Mexico, starting with Pueblo Peoples, and that our association with the Pueblos will enrich and strengthen our program.

I look forward to future discussions and the development of this program of study.

Sincerely,

Sam Minner, Ph.D. President, NMHU

cc: Dr. Roxanne Gonzales, NMHU Provost

Dr. Cristina Duran, Dean, Facundo Valdez School of Social Work

Dr. Regis Pecos, Co-Director of the Leadership Institute at Santa Fe Indian School

Dr. Evelyn Blanchard, Project Coordinator