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SENATE MEMORIAL 13

45TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2002

INTRODUCED BY

Richard M. Romero

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT FEBRUARY 6, 2002 BE DESIGNATED AS "INSTITUTE OF AMERICAN INDIAN ARTS DAY".

WHEREAS, since its inception in 1962, the institute of American Indian arts has successfully fulfilled its mission of serving as a national multi-tribal center of higher education for Native American youth, dedicated to the study, creative application, preservation and care of Indian arts and cultures; and

WHEREAS, the institute is now a four-year college that has generated substantial national media attention for its unique cultural arts program and its Indian-developed philosophy of education; and

WHEREAS, the institute is unique in higher education for its emphasis on cultural learning, providing an educational

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1 program that inspires and builds cultural self-esteem and  
2 pride of heritage in its Native American students and that has  
3 been recognized by the united nations educational, scientific  
4 and cultural organization and the world arts federation as one  
5 of the most unique cultural arts programs in the world; and

6 WHEREAS, the institute has educated more than three  
7 thousand seven hundred Native American students representing  
8 ninety percent of the five hundred fifty-eight federally  
9 recognized tribes in the United States, and also attracts  
10 students from Japan, Venezuela, Russia and several European  
11 countries who are inspired by the institute's learning  
12 environment; and

13 WHEREAS, the institute is credited with creating the  
14 contemporary Indian art movement that began in the 1960s and  
15 spread across the United States and the world, forever  
16 changing the international art scene; and

17 WHEREAS, institute alumni have been, and continue to be,  
18 pivotal in the national and international contemporary art  
19 scene, adding new dimensions of creativity through  
20 contemporary Native American self-expression; and

21 WHEREAS, the institute has greatly impacted the cultural  
22 landscape of the United States and the world through its  
23 world-renowned alumni and faculty, whose works of art grace  
24 the walls and grounds of the New Mexico capitol building, the  
25 white house, the Smithsonian national museum of the American

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1 Indian, major businesses, corporations, museums and art  
2 galleries, and whose works are contained in the British royal  
3 collection, the Aga Kahn's collection and the royal collection  
4 of one of the United Arab Emirates families; and

5 WHEREAS, the institute's impact on tribal communities and  
6 reservations across the United States has resulted in the  
7 implementation of initiatives that address the preservation of  
8 cultural traditions, economic sustainability through education  
9 and freedom of cultural self-expression, all of which create a  
10 stronger and more united front for native peoples; and

11 WHEREAS, the institute of American Indian arts will kick  
12 off its fortieth anniversary celebration with an intertribal  
13 parade on Santa Fe's historic plaza on Friday, April 19, 2002,  
14 a celebration continuing through the spring of 2003 and  
15 culminating with a national symposium that will address  
16 current and future concerns of America's native peoples;

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
18 OF NEW MEXICO that February 6, 2002 be designated as  
19 "Institute of American Indian Arts Day"; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
21 transmitted to the president of the institute of American  
22 Indian arts.