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HOUSE MEMORIAL 19

47TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2006

INTRODUCED BY

Candy Spence Ezzell

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY AT ROSWELL,
HAGERMAN MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS, DEXTER CONSOLIDATED SCHOOLS AND
LAKE ARTHUR MUNICIPAL SCHOOLS STUDY THE FEASIBILITY AND
EFFECTIVENESS OF AN EARLY COLLEGE HIGH SCHOOL INITIATIVE.

WHEREAS, education beyond high school is now more critical
than ever before, and only ten percent of Hispanic students
complete a bachelor's degree; and

WHEREAS, first generation college students are nearly
twice as likely not to complete college as those students with
college-educated parents, and lower-income students are seven
times more likely not to complete a bachelor's degree than
upper-income students; and

WHEREAS, students are not academically prepared for
college, as evidenced by the growing number of students

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1 enrolled in noncredit, remedial courses offered by state
2 colleges and universities; and

3 WHEREAS, the best predictors of college completion are not
4 a student's grades or SAT scores, but the difficulty of the
5 high school courses a student is required to complete; and

6 WHEREAS, in the transition from high school to college,
7 there is a need to emphasize academic preparedness rather than
8 credit-hours alone; and

9 WHEREAS, the need exists to allow students to earn an
10 associate's degree or two years of college credit toward a
11 bachelor's degree and a high school diploma simultaneously; and

12 WHEREAS, high school faculty can act as advisors to assist
13 students in completing an academic plan and can monitor their
14 progress to help them overcome barriers to success; and

15 WHEREAS, experiencing the rigor, depth and intensity of
16 college-level work during high school can help underachieving,
17 average and outstanding students build confidence in their
18 ability to succeed in college; and

19 WHEREAS, this initiative could develop a unique vision and
20 learning environment that could dramatically increase the
21 possibility that the most needy students can truly meet the
22 mandates of the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
24 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that eastern New
25 Mexico university at Roswell, Hagerman municipal school

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1 district, Dexter consolidated school district and Lake Arthur
2 municipal school district study the feasibility and
3 effectiveness of an early college high school initiative;
4 develop a survey of staff, students, parents and community
5 members to gauge expectations, satisfaction and local needs;
6 monitor curricula to ensure high academic standards, alignment
7 and effectiveness of instruction; and evaluate current
8 curricula to ensure adequate preparation of middle and high
9 school students for participation in an early college high
10 school initiative; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the results of this study be
12 presented to the legislative education study committee by
13 September 2006; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
15 transmitted to eastern New Mexico university at Roswell,
16 Hagerman municipal school district; Dexter consolidated school
17 district and Lake Arthur municipal school district.

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