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HOUSE MEMORIAL 94

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2013

INTRODUCED BY

Sharon Clahchischilliage

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE EXAMINE STATE PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THE LEGISLATIVE LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND ACCOMPANYING BUDGET AND FUNDING PROCESSES, TO IDENTIFY WHERE TRIBAL COLLEGES ARE EXCLUDED.

WHEREAS, there are four tribal colleges in New Mexico that serve Pueblo, Apache, Navajo and other American Indian students and serve as valuable institutions of higher learning in the effort by the state to deliver high-quality education to the state's residents; and

WHEREAS, the four tribal colleges are public institutions of higher education designated as 1994 land grant institutions on par with New Mexico's 1862 state land grant public institutions of higher education; and

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1 WHEREAS, tribal college students graduate, transfer to New
2 Mexico institutions of higher education, find employment and
3 seek graduate degrees at a higher rate than American Indian
4 students who attend nontribal institutions of higher learning;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, tribal college students have a graduation rate of
7 seventy percent or better; and

8 WHEREAS, New Mexico is a leader in ensuring higher
9 education access and equity for American Indian students
10 through a series of legislative acts, most notably the American
11 Indian Post-Secondary Education Act, the College Affordability
12 Act, the State-Tribal Collaboration Act and the tribal college
13 dual credit program fund; and

14 WHEREAS, the four tribal colleges have statutory access to
15 state budgetary processes, including capital outlay,
16 operational funding, grants, severance tax bond funding and
17 similar programs and funding sources, on par with New Mexico
18 institutions of higher learning;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the legislative
21 education study committee be requested to examine, during the
22 2013 interim, state programs, policies and procedures and
23 accompanying budget and funding processes, including the
24 legislative lottery scholarship program, to identify where
25 tribal colleges are excluded; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the legislative education
2 study committee draft a report with findings and
3 recommendations to address how tribal colleges shall be
4 included in state programs, policies, procedures, regulations
5 and accompanying annual budgets and funding processes to
6 strengthen New Mexico's effort to develop a highly educated,
7 professional American Indian citizenry; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a draft of the legislative
9 education study committee final report be available for comment
10 by interested parties, including Indian nations, tribes and
11 pueblos, ninety days before the 2014 regular legislative
12 session; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the resulting final report of
14 the legislative education study committee identify the manner
15 in which the legislature and state agencies use statute and
16 rule, respectively, to achieve and implement the report's
17 recommendations and submit the final report to the interim
18 Indian affairs committee for further action as necessary; and

19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
20 transmitted to the governor of the state of New Mexico, the
21 governors of each of New Mexico's nineteen pueblos, the
22 president of the Mescalero Apache Tribe, the president of the
23 Jicarilla Apache Nation, the chair of the Fort Sill Apache
24 Tribe, the president of the Navajo Nation, the speaker of the
25 Navajo Nation council, the chair of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe,

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1 the legislative standing senate Indian and cultural affairs and
2 education committees, the legislative standing house health,
3 government and Indian affairs and education committees, the
4 secretary of higher education, the secretary of public
5 education, the secretary of Indian affairs and the presidents
6 of the four tribal colleges in New Mexico.

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