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HOUSE MEMORIAL 6

**55TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2021**

INTRODUCED BY

Ambrose Castellano

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 11, 2021 "NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY DAY" IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university has been an important educational, cultural, social and economic asset in New Mexico, particularly northern New Mexico, since 1893; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university serves more than three thousand students each year and has more than five hundred employees at the school's main campus and centers; and

WHEREAS, the vision of New Mexico highlands university is to be a premier university, transforming lives and communities now and for generations to come; and

WHEREAS, the core values of New Mexico highlands university are excellence, diversity, accessibility and responsiveness; and

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1           WHEREAS, the priorities of New Mexico highlands university  
2 are academic excellence, academic integration and student  
3 success; strategic enrollment management; vibrant campus and  
4 university life; community partnerships; technological  
5 advancement and innovation; and enhanced communication and  
6 efficiency across the university; and

7           WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university effectively  
8 serves students across the state and beyond its borders, online  
9 and on its campuses and centers in Las Vegas, Santa Fe,  
10 Farmington, Rio Rancho and Albuquerque; and

11           WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university educates many  
12 first-generation college students, transforming their lives and  
13 the lives of their families and future generations; and

14           WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university has many active  
15 alumni, representing every state, many countries and nineteen  
16 tribes and pueblos, and seeks to effectively reach out to all  
17 alumni through the establishment of a vibrant alumni  
18 association board of directors; and

19           WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university had an  
20 unprecedented grant year with over ten million dollars  
21 (\$10,000,000) awarded, hired three new deans and increased  
22 student retention during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic,  
23 and the New Mexico highlands university emergency operations  
24 team effectively handled emergencies such as a cyberattack and  
25 issues related to the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic; and

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1           WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university received a New  
2 Mexico governor's emergency education relief fund grant of six  
3 hundred sixty thousand dollars (\$660,000) to support teachers  
4 and parents with online instruction and developed two new  
5 distance master of arts degree programs, cultural resource  
6 management and criminology; and

7           WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university partnered with  
8 John Wiley and sons, inc. to market and recruit online degree  
9 programs, developed a certificate in emerging business markets  
10 entrepreneurship: industrial hemp and created a concentration  
11 in the masters in education leadership in mathematics teacher  
12 leadership; and

13           WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university received a grant  
14 of nine hundred seventy thousand dollars (\$970,000) from the  
15 Andrew W. Mellon foundation to support the development of a  
16 network of community memory laboratories serving the Indo-  
17 Hispanic population in rural New Mexico and Colorado and a  
18 three-million-dollar (\$3,000,000), five-year grant from the  
19 United States department of education for the recruitment and  
20 retention of Hispanic and low-income students; and

21           WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university hired a director  
22 of the Native American social work studies institute; and

23           WHEREAS, seven New Mexico highlands university athletes  
24 earned a cumulative three-point grade average or higher,  
25 ninety-two athletes earned a cumulative three and five-tenths

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1 point grade average or higher, fourteen athletes were  
2 recognized as all-Rocky Mountain athletic conference performers  
3 and fifty-five athletes were recognized as Rocky Mountain  
4 athletic conference scholars; and

5 WHEREAS, Jonathon Trujillo was named an all-American  
6 wrestler, and many dedicated student athletes completed  
7 significant hours of community service; and

8 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university also established  
9 the center for professional development and career readiness,  
10 partnered with El Centro family health to increase access to  
11 health care through telehealth services, provided coronavirus  
12 disease 2019 testing for all students and provided students  
13 with new initiatives, such as a campus-wide digital sign system  
14 and enhanced fitness and game room equipment; and

15 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university is a federally  
16 designated Hispanic-serving institution, with more than fifty  
17 percent enrolled Hispanic students, and strives to be a Native-  
18 American-serving institution, with nearly nine percent enrolled  
19 Native American students; and

20 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university welcomes students  
21 from northern New Mexico, all of New Mexico, the United States  
22 and the world;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF  
24 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 11,  
25 2021 be declared "New Mexico Highlands University Day" in the

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1 house of representatives; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New Mexico highlands  
3 university be commended for its service and dedication to the  
4 residents of New Mexico; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
6 transmitted to the president of New Mexico highlands  
7 university.

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