

1 A MEMORIAL

2 DECLARING FEBRUARY 23, 2023 "NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS DAY" IN THE
3 SENATE.

4
5 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university has been an
6 important educational, cultural, social and economic asset in
7 New Mexico, particularly northern New Mexico, since 1893; and

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

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

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

18 WHEREAS, the priorities of New Mexico highlands
19 university are academic excellence, academic integration and
20 student success; strategic enrollment management; vibrant
21 campus and university life; community partnerships;
22 technological advancement and innovation; and enhanced
23 communication and efficiency across the university; and

24 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university effectively
25 serves students across the state and beyond its borders,

1 online and on its campuses and centers in Las Vegas,
2 Santa Fe, Farmington, Rio Rancho and Albuquerque; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university educates many
4 first-generation students, transforming their lives and the
5 lives of their families and future generations; and

6 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university has many active
7 alumni, representing every state, many countries and nineteen
8 tribes and pueblos, and seeks to effectively reach out to all
9 alumni through the establishment of a vibrant alumni
10 association board of directors while offering engaging events
11 for alumni and community members; and

12 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university was named one
13 of the most diverse regional universities in the west, a top
14 one hundred best regional university in the west and one of
15 the top sixty public universities in the west by *U.S. News &*
16 *World Report*; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university is also ranked
18 seventy-sixth in the top one hundred among all universities
19 nationwide on *U.S. News & World Report's* top performers on
20 social mobility list and was recognized as one of the top one
21 hundred colleges and universities for Hispanics published in
22 the *Hispanic Outlook for Higher Education's* October 2021
23 issue; and

24 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university continues to
25 demonstrate diversity as an institutional value through a

1 number of partnerships with other New Mexico higher education
2 institutions, including working in tandem with New Mexico
3 state university, eastern New Mexico university and
4 New Mexico's developmental disabilities council; and

5 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university received one
6 million dollars (\$1,000,000) from the federal government to
7 support the New Mexico reforestation center's seed bank and
8 seed collection efforts, and New Mexico highlands university
9 works closely with its partners to meet New Mexico's current
10 and future reforestation needs; and

11 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university is home to the
12 Native American social work studies institute, which includes
13 programs and initiatives serving Native American people, and
14 continues to achieve success in the alternative teaching
15 program while expanding the professional development school
16 model in teacher education; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university launched a new
18 distance education partnership designed to increase student
19 enrollment, and the school's success coach student-mentoring
20 program model has contributed to a historic retention rate in
21 2022; and

22 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university recently
23 developed new degree programs: master of arts in
24 criminology; master of arts in cultural resource management;
25 bachelor of science in wildlife biology and conservation;

1 bachelor of arts in organizational leadership in public
2 safety; bachelor of arts and sciences in general business;
3 master of business administration in health care
4 administration; and master of social work; and

5 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university added new
6 programs in biology, entrepreneurship, cultural resource
7 management and criminal justice; and

8 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university was awarded
9 twenty million five hundred thousand dollars (\$20,500,000) in
10 endowment funding from the higher education department to
11 bolster its education, social work and nursing degree
12 programs; and

13 WHEREAS, the New Mexico highlands university school of
14 education received ten million dollars (\$10,000,000) to
15 support a new institute for culturally and linguistically
16 responsive learning and teaching; and

17 WHEREAS, the New Mexico highlands university Facundo
18 Valdez school of social work receives one million six hundred
19 thousand dollars (\$1,600,000) in federal funding annually
20 through Title IV-E, earmarked for training social workers in
21 New Mexico to work in child welfare; and

22 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university is piloting a
23 new student mental health initiative to support student
24 wellness, with funding from the higher education department,
25 to be used to assess the impact of a new model of care that

1 uses health and wellness coaching to assist students in
2 navigating college experiences; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university is addressing
4 students' basic needs through the implementation of the
5 highlands caring about food equity project with funding from
6 the higher education department to be used to overcome the
7 stigma related to food insecurity and will administer the
8 basic needs survey in spring 2023 as part of the statewide
9 initiative to combat food and housing insecurities at
10 colleges, a first survey of its kind in the nation; and

11 WHEREAS, two hundred thirty-eight New Mexico highlands
12 university athletes earned a cumulative grade point average
13 of three or higher; seventy-seven athletes earned a
14 cumulative three and five-tenths grade point average or
15 higher; seventeen athletes earned a four-point grade average;
16 twenty athletes were recognized as all-Rocky mountain
17 athletic conference performers; seventeen athletes were
18 recognized as Rocky mountain athletic conference academic
19 performers; six athletes were recognized as Rocky mountain
20 athletic conference athlete of the week; four athletes were
21 recognized as national collegiate athletic association
22 all-Americans; one athlete was an elite ninety recipient; and
23 athletes contributed more than two thousand hours of
24 community service; and

25 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university is a federally

1 designated Hispanic-serving institution, with more than fifty
2 percent enrolled Hispanic students, and strives to be a
3 Native-American-serving institution, with nine percent
4 enrolled Native American students; and

5 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university welcomes
6 students from northern New Mexico, all of New Mexico, the
7 United States and the world;

8 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
9 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that February 23, 2023 be declared
10 "New Mexico Highlands Day" in the senate; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New Mexico highlands
12 university be commended for its service and dedication to the
13 residents of New Mexico; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
15 transmitted to the president of New Mexico highlands
16 university. _____

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