

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 13

2 **51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Pete Campos

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, WORKING WITH THE  
12 PUBLIC EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, TO REVIEW THE ADEQUACY,  
13 APPROPRIATENESS AND ALIGNMENT OF BRANCH AND COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
14 STATUTES.

15  
16 WHEREAS, New Mexico statutes relating to the organization  
17 and operation of two-year post-secondary institutions and  
18 programs have evolved in a piecemeal, haphazard way over many  
19 years; and

20 WHEREAS, these statutes include those for branch community  
21 colleges in Chapter 21, Article 14 NMSA 1978, first codified by  
22 the New Mexico legislature in 1957, under which four branch  
23 community college campuses of New Mexico state university, four  
24 campuses of the university of New Mexico and two campuses of  
25 eastern New Mexico university currently operate; and

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1           WHEREAS, these statutes include the Community College Act,  
2 enacted by the New Mexico legislature in 1963, under which six  
3 locally governed community colleges currently operate; and

4           WHEREAS, these statutes include the Technical and  
5 Vocational Institute Act, enacted in 1963, under which the  
6 central New Mexico community college currently operates; and

7           WHEREAS, these statutes include the Off-Campus Instruction  
8 Act, enacted in 1982, under which no institutions currently  
9 operate; and

10          WHEREAS, these statutes also include the College District  
11 Tax Act, the Learning Center Act and the Workforce Training  
12 Act, among others; and

13          WHEREAS, some provisions in these statutes may be  
14 obsolete, duplicative or no longer relevant to current  
15 practice; and

16          WHEREAS, the New Mexico legislature needs a review and  
17 update of these statutes to ensure that the legal framework  
18 relating to two-year post-secondary institutions is adequate,  
19 appropriate and aligned to current and future requirements;

20          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE  
21 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the higher education department be  
22 requested to appoint a "branch and community college task  
23 force" to conduct a thorough review of all relevant New Mexico  
24 statutes of adequacy, appropriateness and alignment and to  
25 develop recommendations for modification to be presented to the

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1 first session of the fifty-second legislature; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be appointed by  
3 the secretary of higher education, in consultation with the  
4 secretary of public education and branch and community college  
5 presidents; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force membership  
7 include geographic and demographic representation that is  
8 reflective of the state of New Mexico; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force develop  
10 recommendations to be presented to the appropriate legislative  
11 committees by December 1, 2014 for consideration by the 2015  
12 legislature; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
14 transmitted to the secretary of higher education, the secretary  
15 of public education and the presidents of the state branch and  
16 community colleges.