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SENATE MEMORIAL 89

**53RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2018**

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE  
FEASIBILITY OF TWO-YEAR PUBLICLY FUNDED COMMUNITY COLLEGES  
BEING OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS.

WHEREAS, the high cost of college tuition is a deterrent  
to many New Mexico students contemplating career choices after  
high school graduation; and

WHEREAS, the need for educated and qualified workers  
continues to grow, and workers in science, technology,  
engineering and mathematics occupations are the highest-paid in  
New Mexico and other states; and

WHEREAS, according to New Mexico 2016 state of the  
workforce report statistics, New Mexico's labor force had a  
lower educational attainment than most surrounding states; and

WHEREAS, as of 2014, only twenty-nine percent of the labor

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1 force earned a bachelor's or higher degree; and

2 WHEREAS, currently fifty-one percent of the jobs in New  
3 Mexico require a certificate or an associate's degree rather  
4 than a bachelor's or master's degree; and

5 WHEREAS, by 2022, jobs requiring a bachelor's or higher  
6 degree are projected to grow thirteen and four-tenths percent,  
7 and jobs requiring a master's degree are projected to have the  
8 fastest rate of growth at twenty-one and six-tenths percent;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, Tennessee and Oregon support programs that cover  
11 most tuition at state community colleges for recent high school  
12 graduates or general educational development certificate  
13 recipients; and

14 WHEREAS, a two-year college entry-level program with no or  
15 very low tuition would encourage more students, returning  
16 students and adult learners to consider pursuing a college  
17 education; and

18 WHEREAS, to gain competitiveness in the workforce, New  
19 Mexico needs to encourage and provide students, returning  
20 students and adult learners with low-cost educational  
21 opportunities;

22 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
23 OF NEW MEXICO that the higher education department be requested  
24 to establish a task force of community college presidents,  
25 higher education department representatives, legislators, staff

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1 and other interested parties to study the feasibility of  
2 providing all students, returning students and adult learners  
3 with an education at a two-year college with no or very low  
4 tuition; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
6 study successful programs in other states that cover tuition at  
7 two-year colleges to see if such programs could be implemented  
8 in New Mexico; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested to  
10 report its findings and recommendations to the legislative  
11 education study committee by November 1, 2018; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to the chair and director of the legislative  
14 education study committee and the secretary of higher  
15 education.

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