

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT NEW MEXICO BE A LEADER IN PREPARING YOUNG RESEARCHERS TO ANSWER THE GLOBAL CHALLENGES IN SCIENCE, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS.

WHEREAS, New Mexico faces a serious and intensifying challenge to its future competitiveness and standard of living as fewer of its students select careers in science, engineering and mathematics; and

WHEREAS, the standard of living of New Mexicans depends, to a large degree, on the quality of jobs that they are able to hold; and

WHEREAS, New Mexicans find themselves in competition for jobs, not just with their immediate neighbors, but with individuals around the world; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico is competing with countries that expend proportionately more money per student to build their science and engineering communities; and

WHEREAS, research projects allow students to apply their knowledge and skills directly, a technique that has been shown to improve their understanding of mathematical, scientific and engineering concepts; and

WHEREAS, students are New Mexico's finest resource;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the state be a leader in preparing

young researchers; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the governor be requested to declare a "New Mexico Young Researchers Awareness Day"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education department be requested to require that all students in secondary schools conduct a scientific research project for presentation or review prior to graduation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that expositions of student science projects no longer be identified as "science fairs" but as "student science and engineering research challenges"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that every post-secondary educational institution establish a review process for secondary-school student research projects and that the results be considered when admitting students to those institutions; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all new teachers of science and mathematics be involved in evaluating student research projects that are displayed in public; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education department and the higher education department collaborate to provide kindergarten through twelfth grade teachers with the opportunity to conduct their own research for their own professional growth; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education

department and the higher education department work with the international science and engineering fair; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a public education and marketing program be established to help educate residents about how work force education issues will affect New Mexicans and their standard of living for generations to come; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the public education department, the higher education department and the governor.