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HOUSE JOINT MEMORIAL 34

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011

INTRODUCED BY

Gail Chasey and Timothy M. Keller

A JOINT MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THE NEW MEXICO LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL TO CREATE A TWO-YEAR INTERIM LEGISLATIVE HIGHER EDUCATION COMMITTEE.

WHEREAS, Article 12, Section 11 of the constitution of New Mexico specifies the state educational institutions, including the university of New Mexico, New Mexico institute of mining and technology, New Mexico state university, western New Mexico university, eastern New Mexico university and New Mexico highlands university; and

WHEREAS, in addition to the universities and northern New Mexico college, there are ten branch community colleges, seven independent community colleges and numerous instructional sites offering post-secondary courses; and

WHEREAS, the center on education and the workforce has determined that two-thirds of all American jobs will require

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1 some level of post-secondary education and one-third of all
2 jobs will require a bachelor's, graduate or professional degree
3 by 2018; and

4 WHEREAS, the fastest growing economies of the world
5 sponsor graduate education and invest in university research
6 programs; and

7 WHEREAS, the state has made access a priority through
8 factors in the higher education funding formula, financial aid,
9 distance education and learning centers; and

10 WHEREAS, due to budget constraints, the state has reduced
11 higher education funding while shifting a larger portion of the
12 overall cost of higher education to students at high tuition
13 institutions; and

14 WHEREAS, the continued expansion of developmental and
15 remedial education consumes limited resources, restricting
16 higher education opportunities; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexico's economic, public safety and health
18 interests are heavily dependent on the well-being of the
19 state's higher education efforts; and

20 WHEREAS, the legislative education study committee is
21 prohibited from studying higher education and making
22 recommendations other than with respect to the training of
23 certified teaching personnel; and

24 WHEREAS, the legislature recognizes the need to focus on
25 higher education;

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1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
2 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the New Mexico legislative council be
3 requested to create a two-year interim legislative "higher
4 education committee" to consult with the higher education
5 institutions and the higher education department to advance the
6 state higher education effort; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education committee
8 examine:

9 A. opportunities to coordinate disciplines and
10 degrees across institutional lines to assure adequate coverage
11 of degree or program offerings by multiple institutions,
12 particularly in high demand and burgeoning industries;

13 B. the impact of regional and national
14 accreditation and professional standards on curriculum and
15 graduation requirements and the relationships between state
16 funding, institutional practices and students' perceptions of
17 why students do not complete courses and programs;

18 C. education outcomes and work force needs by
19 economic and geographic sectors;

20 D. the state's changing demographics and
21 institutional statistics; and

22 E. faculty and staff compensation, including
23 salaries and benefits, and academic and research recruitment
24 and retention; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education committee

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consider:

A. funding adequacy and equity and resource allocation, including mission-differentiated higher education funding formulae; and

B. dedication of a revenue stream, similar to that provided for public education, to address the deferred maintenance condition of higher education; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education committee develop recommendations and report to the legislature by November 30, 2011 and again by November 30, 2012; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be transmitted to the co-chairs of the New Mexico legislative council and to the secretary of higher education.