

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION OF WESTERN NEW MEXICO
3 UNIVERSITY AND THE SILVER AND COBRE SCHOOL DISTRICTS,
4 TOGETHER WITH THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT AND THE PUBLIC
5 EDUCATION DEPARTMENT, TO CONDUCT A FEASIBILITY STUDY TO
6 DETERMINE THE NEED AND RESOURCES FOR A VOCATIONAL-TECHNICAL
7 TRAINING CENTER FOR MIDDLE SCHOOL AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS IN
8 THE SILVER AND COBRE CONSOLIDATED SCHOOL DISTRICTS.

9
10 WHEREAS, vocational-technical education is crucial to
11 providing the strong work force training needed to fill the
12 good-paying jobs that are vital to restoring the economic
13 health of the nation; and

14 WHEREAS, vocational-technical programs also produce
15 strong educational returns, strengthening student engagement
16 in school, achievement in academics and technical skills and
17 transitions from high school to post-secondary education and
18 from education to careers; and

19 WHEREAS, the Georgetown university center on education
20 and the workforce predicts that thirty percent of the
21 forty-six million eight hundred thousand job openings that
22 will be created by 2018 will require some college education
23 or a two-year associate degree; and

24 WHEREAS, the federal bureau of labor statistics projects
25 that middle-skill jobs, which are jobs that generally require

1 some significant education and training beyond high school
2 but less than a bachelor's degree, will account for about
3 forty-five percent of all job openings projected through
4 2014; and

5 WHEREAS, middle school and freshman and sophomore high
6 school students need an academic bridge to help them prepare
7 for dual enrollment classes in their junior and senior years;
8 and

9 WHEREAS, although the Silver and Cobre consolidated
10 school districts in southwestern New Mexico serve more than
11 one thousand two hundred students, due to their relative
12 isolation, the students in those school districts have
13 limited opportunities to explore vocational and technical
14 opportunities; and

15 WHEREAS, the establishment of a vocational-technical
16 training center could provide the needed academic bridge for
17 those students; and

18 WHEREAS, with access to a vocational-technical training
19 center, students in the Silver and Cobre consolidated school
20 districts would be able to take advantage of the services and
21 benefits that are available in other geographic regions of
22 the state, such as along the Rio Grande corridor; and

23 WHEREAS, exposure to the advantages of technical and
24 vocational education would encourage students to stay in
25 school and become career-ready and college-ready;

1 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
2 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the school of education of western
3 New Mexico university and the Silver and Cobre consolidated
4 school districts, together with the higher education
5 department and the public education department, be requested
6 to conduct a feasibility study to determine the needs and
7 options for understanding the relevance, accessibility and
8 quality of technical-vocational career education in the
9 Silver and Cobre school districts; and

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the school of education of
11 western New Mexico university take the lead in establishing a
12 work group to conduct the study; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group be
14 representative of the diversity of the community and that its
15 members elect a chairperson to assist in providing direction
16 and focus for the work group; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include:

18 A. an examination of labor market needs for
19 long-term sustainable development;

20 B. an assessment of the range of costs and
21 benefits associated with safeguarding against wasting
22 resources;

23 C. an assessment of long-term sustainable growth
24 and the skills needed in industries;

25 D. an assessment of the status of technical and

1 vocational educational institutions;

2 E. an analysis of the construction and maintenance
3 costs of building a new institution in the region; and

4 F. the establishment of an implementation phase to
5 analyze funding strategies to include planning phases
6 together with long-term planning and costs for each
7 development phase; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, as the feasibility study
9 progresses, the study group seek involvement from local
10 stakeholders; and

11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
12 transmitted to the dean of the school of education at western
13 New Mexico university, the respective superintendents of the
14 Silver and Cobre consolidated school districts and the
15 secretaries of higher education and public education. _____

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