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SENATE MEMORIAL 65

50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2012

INTRODUCED BY

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A MEMORIAL

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

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

WHEREAS, vocational-technical programs also produce strong educational returns, strengthening student engagement in school, achievement in academics and technical skills and

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1 transitions from high school to post-secondary education and
2 from education to careers; and

3 WHEREAS, the Georgetown university center on education and
4 the workforce predicts that thirty percent of the forty-six
5 million eight hundred thousand job openings that will be
6 created by 2018 will require some college education or a two-
7 year associate degree; and

8 WHEREAS, the federal bureau of labor statistics projects
9 that middle-skill jobs, which are jobs that generally require
10 some significant education and training beyond high school but
11 less than a bachelor's degree, will account for about forty-
12 five percent of all job openings projected through 2014; and

13 WHEREAS, middle school and freshman and sophomore high
14 school students need an academic bridge to help them prepare
15 for dual enrollment classes in their junior and senior years;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, although the Silver and Cobre consolidated school
18 districts in southwestern New Mexico serve more than one
19 thousand two hundred students, due to their relative isolation,
20 the students in those school districts have limited
21 opportunities to explore vocational and technical
22 opportunities; and

23 WHEREAS, the establishment of a vocational-technical
24 training center could provide the needed academic bridge for
25 those students; and

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

6 WHEREAS, exposure to the advantages of technical and
7 vocational education would encourage students to stay in school
8 and become career-ready and college-ready;

9 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
10 OF NEW MEXICO that the school of education of western New
11 Mexico university and the Silver and Cobre consolidated school
12 districts, together with the higher education department and
13 the public education department, be requested to conduct a
14 feasibility study to determine the needs and options for
15 understanding the relevance, accessibility and quality of
16 technical-vocational career education in the Silver and Cobre
17 school districts; and

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

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the work group be
22 representative of the diversity of the community and that its
23 members elect a chairperson to assist in providing direction
24 and focus for the work group; and

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the study include:

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