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HOUSE MEMORIAL 78

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

Sheryl Williams Stapleton

A MEMORIAL

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF CAREER-
TECHNICAL EDUCATION IN EXPANDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR STUDENTS IN
PUBLIC SCHOOLS; RECOGNIZING THE WORK OF ERIC SPENCER AND THE
IMPORTANCE OF POSITIVE, ACTIVE LEADERSHIP IN FURTHERING THE
GOALS OF PROVIDING COLLEGE AND CAREER READINESS CHOICES FOR
STUDENTS.

WHEREAS, career-technical education is helping the nation
meet the very real and immediate challenges of economic
development, student achievement and global competitiveness;
and

WHEREAS, some fourteen million students are enrolled in
career-technical education in every state, with programs in
nearly one thousand two hundred public high schools and one
thousand seven hundred two-year colleges; and

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1 WHEREAS, the average high school graduation rate for
2 students concentrating in career-technical education programs
3 is more than ninety percent compared to an average national
4 freshman graduation rate of just under seventy-five percent;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, seventy percent of students concentrating in
7 career-technical education areas stayed in post-secondary
8 education or transferred to a four-year degree program,
9 compared to an average state target of fifty-eight percent; and

10 WHEREAS, experts project forty-seven million job openings
11 in the decade ending in 2018, one-third of which will require
12 an associate's degree or certificate and nearly all of which
13 will require real-world skills that can be mastered through
14 career-technical education; and

15 WHEREAS, Eric Spencer, who became director of the public
16 education department's college and career readiness bureau in
17 October 2012, embodies the career-technical education vision of
18 "reflect, transform, lead"; and

19 WHEREAS, prior to assuming his directorship, Mr. Spencer
20 served the public education department for over twelve years in
21 multiple roles, first as a staff manager for career-technical
22 work force education and, after that, as budget director for
23 the administrative services division; and

24 WHEREAS, Mr. Spencer began his career in education as a
25 business teacher, teaching both in one of the smallest and in

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1 one of the largest high schools in the state; and

2 WHEREAS, besides teaching at the elementary, middle and
3 high school levels, Mr. Spencer has served as an assistant to a
4 principal at an elementary school and as an assistant to a
5 district superintendent; and

6 WHEREAS, for the past six years, Mr. Spencer has served as
7 an adjunct faculty member in the school of business and
8 professional studies at Luna community college, where he
9 teaches accounting, finance and economics; and

10 WHEREAS, Mr. Spencer earned his bachelor's degree and his
11 master's degree in business administration, as well as having
12 completed all coursework required for his teaching and
13 administrative licenses at New Mexico highlands university; and

14 WHEREAS, after completing requirements for those
15 credentials, Mr. Spencer studied insurance and risk management
16 at California state university in San Francisco, and he
17 continues to be a lifelong learner, studying architectural
18 design and art at Santa Fe community college; and

19 WHEREAS, most recently, the New Mexico state directors of
20 Carl D. Perkins programs honored Mr. Spencer by endorsing him
21 for an honorary doctorate degree; and

22 WHEREAS, as a recipient of numerous educational awards,
23 Mr. Spencer has been recognized at the state and national
24 levels in the career-technical education arena for his many
25 contributions to the education of children and youths;

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