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HOUSE BILL 7

**54TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2019**

INTRODUCED BY

Micaela Lara Cadena and Tomás E. Salazar

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; CREATING CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE AT  
HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS TO PROMOTE DEVELOPMENT IN THE  
CYBERSECURITY, SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE, RENEWABLE ENERGY  
INDUSTRIES AND BIOSCIENCE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of Chapter 21 NMSA 1978 is  
enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.--

A. A "center of excellence" is established at the  
following higher education institutions:

(1) the New Mexico institute of mining and  
technology to work toward developing and promoting innovation  
in and expanding cybersecurity industries;

(2) New Mexico state university to work toward

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1 developing and promoting innovation in and expanding  
2 sustainable agricultural industries;

3 (3) San Juan college to work toward developing  
4 and promoting innovation in and expanding sustainable and  
5 renewable energy industries; and

6 (4) the university of New Mexico health  
7 sciences center-affiliated entity, the New Mexico bioscience  
8 authority, to continue its work toward developing, promoting  
9 innovation in and expanding the bioscience industry in New  
10 Mexico.

11 B. Each center of excellence provided for in  
12 Subsection A of this section shall foster excellence in the  
13 noted field through:

14 (1) collaboration among leaders of the state's  
15 agencies, higher education institutions, business sector,  
16 national laboratories and community organizations;

17 (2) the development by those leaders of  
18 strategies to accomplish that aim; and

19 (3) the execution of those strategies.

20 C. Each center of excellence provided for in  
21 Subsection A of this section shall:

22 (1) actively seek, and may accept, public and  
23 private funding for its work;

24 (2) establish short- and long-term goals for  
25 job creation, business creation and private equity investment

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outcomes of its work; and

(3) beginning in 2020, report annually to the higher education department and the legislative finance committee on its goals and achievements."

**SECTION 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.**--The effective date of the provisions of this act is July 1, 2019.