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SENATE MEMORIAL 81

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

INTRODUCED BY

Pete Campos

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING FEBRUARY 21, 2019 "NEW MEXICO HIGHLANDS UNIVERSITY DAY" IN THE SENATE.

WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university is a Hispanic-serving institution, with Hispanic students representing more than fifty percent of the student population, and strives to be a Native American-serving institution, with Native American students representing more than eight percent of the student population; and

WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university serves nontraditional students over the age of twenty-five, who comprise almost forty-four percent of the student population; and

WHEREAS, more than seventy-two percent of the undergraduates at New Mexico highlands university receive

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1 financial aid, with approximately fifty percent being Pell  
2 grant recipients; and

3 WHEREAS, over the past three years, New Mexico highlands  
4 university awarded students with more than one thousand five  
5 hundred bachelor's degrees and over one thousand two hundred  
6 master's degrees; and

7 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university is consistently  
8 ranked first in New Mexico for student satisfaction, according  
9 to alumni surveys; and

10 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university is ranked as a  
11 leading college in the "best bang for the buck" category,  
12 published by *Washington Monthly* magazine; and

13 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university is one of the  
14 leading colleges in the country for boosting its students'  
15 social mobility, according to the Brookings institute; and

16 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university has many active  
17 alumni, representing every state and many countries, and seeks  
18 to effectively reach out to all alumni through the  
19 establishment of a vibrant alumni association board of  
20 directors; and

21 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university has recently  
22 celebrated its one hundred twenty-fifth anniversary, with  
23 campuswide celebrations, including a matanza for the campus  
24 community, alumni and the greater community; and

25 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university recently

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1 completed a financial campaign to restore its athletic field  
2 for the numerous athletic teams that use it, bringing it into  
3 compliance the with the national collegiate athletic  
4 association standards; and

5 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university athletes' average  
6 grade point averages were three and ten-hundredths, compared to  
7 New Mexico highlands university non-athlete grade point  
8 averages of two and ninety-seven hundredths, and the athletes  
9 earned the highest average grade point averages over the past  
10 eight years; and

11 WHEREAS, the priorities of New Mexico highlands university  
12 are: academic excellence; academic integration and student  
13 success; strategic enrollment management; vibrant campus and  
14 university life; community partnerships; technological  
15 advancement and innovation; and enhanced communication and  
16 efficiency across the university; and

17 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university effectively  
18 serves students across the state and beyond its borders, online  
19 and on its campuses and centers in Las Vegas, Santa Fe,  
20 Farmington, Rio Rancho, Albuquerque and Roswell; and

21 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university educates many  
22 first-generation, minority and low-income students,  
23 transforming their lives and the lives of their families and  
24 future generations; and

25 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university has been awarded

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1 approximately fifteen million dollars (\$15,000,000) in grants  
2 since 2015; and

3 WHEREAS, New Mexico highlands university welcomes students  
4 from northern New Mexico and other regions of the state, as  
5 well as the United States and the world;

6 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE  
7 OF NEW MEXICO that February 21, 2019 be declared "New Mexico  
8 Highlands University Day" in the senate; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that New Mexico highlands  
10 university be commended for its service and dedication to the  
11 residents of New Mexico; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be  
13 transmitted to the president of New Mexico highlands  
14 university.