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AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTERS IN THE STATE; PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES; REQUIRING REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CENTERS.

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:

"AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTERS--HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ESTABLISH-- PROCUREMENT FOR CENTERS' OPERATIONS--POWERS AND DUTIES.--

A. The higher education department shall establish two American Indian education technical assistance centers to provide technical assistance and support for tribal education departments and tribal communities, with a primary focus on American Indian students' education and success, while also working in partnership with the higher education department, the public education department and the early childhood education and care department to support:

(1) the development of culturally relevant and linguistically appropriate curriculum and instructional materials;

(2) career pathways for American Indian educators;

1 (3) professional development opportunities
2 for licensed school employees and school administrators in
3 culturally and linguistically relevant pedagogy;

4 (4) education policy developments and
5 capacity building for tribal communities;

6 (5) collaboration with state education
7 agencies on tribal-related programs to help agencies with
8 outreach, recommend indigenous educators, scholars and
9 professionals as consultants to tribal programs and
10 participate in funding applications to support the technical
11 assistance centers and other statewide indigenous education
12 efforts;

13 (6) collaboration with institutions serving
14 American Indian students, including school districts, charter
15 schools, early childhood centers and programs, bureau of
16 Indian education schools and public and tribal higher
17 education institutions; and

18 (7) additional responsibilities or duties
19 related to American Indian education or vocational support
20 determined by consultation among the various stakeholders.

21 B. Two American Indian education technical
22 assistance centers in geographically distinct regions of the
23 state shall serve all American Indian students and federally
24 recognized Indian nations, tribes and pueblos located wholly
25 or partially in New Mexico. The higher education department

1 shall seek tribal input and feedback from the public
2 education department and the early childhood education and
3 care department for the preparation of a request for
4 proposals to operate a center and provide the services
5 specified in the request for proposals, including the:

6 (1) types of technical assistance provided
7 to institutions serving American Indian students, including
8 school districts, charter schools, early childhood centers,
9 homes and programs, bureau of Indian education schools,
10 public and tribal higher education institutions, tribally
11 operated departments and tribal governments; and

12 (2) partnerships the centers propose to
13 develop, including with state agencies, school districts,
14 charter schools, early education centers, homes and programs,
15 bureau of Indian education schools, federally recognized
16 Indian nations, tribes and pueblos and public and tribal
17 higher education institutions.

18 C. The higher education department's request for
19 proposals shall prioritize applications from tribal colleges
20 and universities in New Mexico, American Indian programs at
21 New Mexico public higher education institutions and tribally
22 controlled institutions and entities with demonstrated
23 experience and knowledge of working with American Indian
24 students and federally recognized Indian nations, tribes and
25 pueblos located wholly or partially in New Mexico and include

1 how a center is expected to:

2 (1) set goals, objectives and benchmarks;

3 (2) provide annual reports on the progress
4 and status of projects undertaken to be made available to the
5 higher education department, which will then distribute the
6 reports to appropriate agencies, the governor's office and
7 the legislature; and

8 (3) report contracting and financial
9 accounting information to the department in the form required
10 by the higher education department."

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