

1 A MEMORIAL

2 REQUESTING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A TASK FORCE TO STUDY THE
3 FEASIBILITY OF TWO-YEAR PUBLICLY FUNDED COMMUNITY COLLEGES
4 BEING OPEN TO ALL STUDENTS.

5
6 WHEREAS, the high cost of college tuition is a deterrent
7 to many New Mexico students contemplating career choices
8 after high school graduation; and

9 WHEREAS, the need for educated and qualified workers
10 continues to grow, and workers in science, technology,
11 engineering and mathematics occupations are the highest-paid
12 in New Mexico and other states; and

13 WHEREAS, according to New Mexico 2016 state of the
14 workforce report statistics, New Mexico's labor force had a
15 lower educational attainment than most surrounding states;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, as of 2014, only twenty-nine percent of the
18 labor force earned a bachelor's or higher degree; and

19 WHEREAS, currently fifty-one percent of the jobs in
20 New Mexico require a certificate or an associate's degree
21 rather than a bachelor's or master's degree; and

22 WHEREAS, by 2022, jobs requiring a bachelor's or higher
23 degree are projected to grow thirteen and four-tenths
24 percent, and jobs requiring a master's degree are projected
25 to have the fastest rate of growth at twenty-one and

1 six-tenths percent; and

2 WHEREAS, Tennessee and Oregon support programs that
3 cover most tuition at state community colleges for recent
4 high school graduates or general educational development
5 certificate recipients; and

6 WHEREAS, a two-year college entry-level program with no
7 or very low tuition would encourage more students, returning
8 students and adult learners to consider pursuing a college
9 education; and

10 WHEREAS, to gain competitiveness in the workforce,
11 New Mexico needs to encourage and provide students, returning
12 students and adult learners with low-cost educational
13 opportunities;

14 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE
15 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the higher education department be
16 requested to establish a task force of community college
17 presidents, higher education department representatives,
18 legislators, staff and other interested parties to study the
19 feasibility of providing all students, returning students and
20 adult learners with an education at a two-year college with
21 no or very low tuition; and

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
23 to study successful programs in other states that cover
24 tuition at two-year colleges to see if such programs could be
25 implemented in New Mexico; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force be requested
2 to report its findings and recommendations to the legislative
3 education study committee by November 1, 2018; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
5 transmitted to the chair and director of the legislative
6 education study committee and the secretary of higher
7 education.

8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25