SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 9

43RD LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 1997

INTRODUCED BY

LEONARD TSOSIE

FOR THE INDIAN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

A JOINT MEMORIAL

ENCOURAGING THE INTEGRATION OF PROGRAMMING FOR NATIVE AMERICAN STUDENTS AT THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO.

WHEREAS, Native American students have the highest dropout rate of all categories of students in post-secondary schools; and

WHEREAS, the university of New Mexico is the four-year university in the state with the largest enrollment of Native American students, most being Navajo; and

WHEREAS, to be successful at retaining Native American students at the university level, the university system must advocate a student-centered educational environment; and

WHEREAS, easy access to all available programs as well as to faculty and resources must be encouraged so that students can get needed assistance and accomplish their studies in an

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1   environment that encourages questioning, supports diversity and

2   aids in a sense of belonging; and

3   WHEREAS, at the university of New Mexico, existing programs

4   for Native American students include Native American studies,

5   American Indian student services and the Native American program

6   at the college of engineering, all being members of the Native

7   American programs alliance; and

8   WHEREAS, other university programs also involved in Native

9   American education are the college enrichment program and the

10   center for academic program support; and

11   WHEREAS, although there is duplication of efforts in

12   several of these programs, it is necessary to keep in mind that

13   retention efforts will be more successful the more integrated

14   the programs for Native American students can be; and

15   WHEREAS, fragmenting Native American programs will only

16   serve to fragment the education received by Native American

17   students and discourage them from staying in school; and

18   WHEREAS, the current Native American studies program

19   provides a central location where students can work, including a

20   computer "pod", a resource library and tutoring services for

21   both the undergraduate and graduate student population; and

22   WHEREAS, currently, Native American studies and American

23   Indian student services are housed in the same building, making

24   access to tutoring, research and computer services as well as

25   academic advisement and support services close at hand; and

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1   WHEREAS, ultimately, the goal for the Native American

2   programs at the university of New Mexico should be to have a

3   Native American studies department, which would offer both

4   undergraduate and graduate degrees; and

5   WHEREAS, until that time, the Native American programs

6   alliance serves to enhance American Indian student support,

7   improve retention and recruitment and provide leadership in all

8   these areas;

9   NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE

10   STATE OF NEW MEXICO that in any future reorganization efforts at

11   the university of New Mexico, the administration seriously

12   consider the negative effects of further fragmenting Native

13   American programming at the university; and

14   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all efforts be made to

15   integrate and unify programs to the benefit of Native American

16   students, providing the best access and possibility for

17   networking among students possible; and

18   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in any changes that are made,

19   efforts to retain Native American students be kept foremost in

20   mind, as well as the tandem need to continue to create an

21   environment for students that is student centered; and

22   BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be sent

23   to the provost's office, Native American studies, American

24   Indian student services and the vice president of student

25   affairs at the university of New Mexico.

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1   **FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE**

2   **FIRST SESSION, 1997**

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5   February 25, 1997

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7   Mr. President:

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9   Your **RULES COMMITTEE**, to whom has been referred

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11   **SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 9**

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13 has had it under consideration and reports same with

14 recommendation that it **DO PASS**.

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16   Respectfully submitted,

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20   _____

21   **Gloria Howes, Chairman**

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25 Adopted_____ Not Adopted_____
                (Chief Clerk)   (Chief Clerk)

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1   Date _____

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4   The roll call vote was _6_ For _0_ Against

5   Yes: 6

6   No: 0

7   Excused: Aragon, Gorham

8   Absent: None

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State of New Mexico
House of Representatives

FORTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION, 1997

March 19, 1997

Mr. Speaker:

Your **EDUCATION COMMITTEE,** to whom has been referred

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 9

has had it under consideration and reports same with
recommendation that it **DO PASS.**

Respectfully submitted,

_____

Samuel F. Vigil, Chairman

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2 Adopted _____   Not Adopted _____

3   (Chief Clerk)   (Chief Clerk)

4
                        Date _____
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6 The roll call vote was _9_ For _0_ Against

7 Yes: 9

8 Excused: Miera, Nicely, S.M. Williams, Wright

9 Absent: None

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