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HOUSE MEMORIAL 37

51ST LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - SECOND SESSION, 2014

INTRODUCED BY

Sharon Clahchischilliage

A MEMORIAL

REQUESTING THAT THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT EXAMINE STATE PROGRAMS, INCLUDING THE LEGISLATIVE LOTTERY SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM, POLICIES AND PROCEDURES AND ACCOMPANYING BUDGET AND FUNDING PROCESSES, TO IDENTIFY WHERE TRIBAL COLLEGES ARE EXCLUDED.

WHEREAS, there are four tribal colleges in New Mexico that serve Pueblo, Apache, Navajo and other American Indian students and serve as valuable institutions of higher learning in the effort by the state to deliver high-quality education to the state's residents; and

WHEREAS, the four tribal colleges are public institutions of higher education designated as 1994 land grant institutions on par with New Mexico's 1862 state land grant public institutions of higher education; and

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1 WHEREAS, tribal college students graduate, transfer to New
2 Mexico institutions of higher education, find employment and
3 seek graduate degrees at a higher rate than American Indian
4 students who attend nontribal institutions of higher learning;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, tribal college students have a graduation rate of
7 seventy percent or better; and

8 WHEREAS, New Mexico is a leader in ensuring higher
9 education access and equity for American Indian students
10 through a series of legislative acts, most notably the American
11 Indian Post-Secondary Education Act, the College Affordability
12 Act and the State-Tribal Collaboration Act, and through the
13 tribal college dual credit program fund; and

14 WHEREAS, the four tribal colleges have statutory access to
15 state budgetary processes, including capital outlay,
16 operational funding, grants, severance tax bond funding and
17 similar programs and funding sources, on par with New Mexico
18 institutions of higher learning;

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
20 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the higher
21 education department be requested to examine, during the 2014
22 interim, state programs, policies and procedures and
23 accompanying budget and funding processes, including the
24 legislative lottery scholarship program, to identify where
25 tribal colleges are excluded; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the higher education
2 department draft a report with findings and recommendations to
3 address how tribal colleges shall be included in state
4 programs, policies, procedures and regulations and accompanying
5 annual budgets and funding processes to strengthen New Mexico's
6 effort to develop a highly educated, professional American
7 Indian citizenry; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a draft of the higher
9 education department final report be available for comment by
10 interested parties, including Indian nations, tribes and
11 pueblos, ninety days before the 2015 regular legislative
12 session; and

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the resulting final report of
14 the higher education department identify the manner in which
15 the legislature and state agencies can use statute and rule,
16 respectively, to achieve and implement the report's
17 recommendations and submit the final report to the interim
18 Indian affairs committee and the legislative education study
19 committee for further action as necessary; and

20 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
21 transmitted to the governor of the state of New Mexico, the
22 governors of all of New Mexico's nineteen pueblos, the
23 president of the Mescalero Apache Tribe, the president of the
24 Jicarilla Apache Nation, the chair of the Fort Sill Apache
25 Tribe, the president of the Navajo Nation, the speaker of the

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1 Navajo Nation council, the chair of the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe,
2 the legislative standing senate Indian and cultural affairs and
3 education committees, the legislative standing house health,
4 government and Indian affairs and education committees, the
5 secretary of higher education, the secretary of public
6 education, the secretary of Indian affairs and the presidents
7 of the four tribal colleges in New Mexico.

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