

1 SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL 33

2 **50TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2011**

3 INTRODUCED BY

4 Cynthia Nava

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10 A JOINT MEMORIAL

11 REQUESTING THE HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO CONTINUE THE TASK
12 FORCE TO STUDY DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION AT COMMUNITY COLLEGES.

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14 WHEREAS, remedial education courses are also known as
15 developmental education; and

16 WHEREAS, forty-seven percent of public high school
17 graduates in the state took remedial classes in math, reading
18 or English in New Mexico colleges in 2009; and

19 WHEREAS, sixty-seven percent of the students entering
20 college in New Mexico in 2003 who took no remedial courses in
21 their first semester obtained a degree in six years; and

22 WHEREAS, only twenty percent of the students who took one
23 remedial course in their first semester, and only one percent
24 of the students who took four remedial courses, obtained a
25 degree, according to the 2010 "Ready for College" report,

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1 published by the office of education accountability; and

2 WHEREAS, there are many nontraditional and innovative
3 strategies around the country designed to quickly put students
4 into traditional, credit-bearing courses; and

5 WHEREAS, the cost to the state of developmental education
6 increased by sixteen percent over the past year; and

7 WHEREAS, the legislature is concerned that continued
8 funding of developmental education could mean reductions in the
9 funding for higher education; and

10 WHEREAS, as reported by the higher education department in
11 2010, alternative approaches to college education such as dual
12 credit courses, in which students are able to earn college
13 credit for course work undertaken while they are still in high
14 school, may contribute to a lower demand for developmental
15 education courses; and

16 WHEREAS, there is a trend among legislatures and post-
17 secondary systems to consider performance funding as a means of
18 incentivizing improvements in student success; and

19 WHEREAS, unlike many states, New Mexico does not have
20 common placement cut-off scores for determining college
21 readiness; therefore, a student can score into college-level
22 courses at one college and, with the same score, be placed in
23 remedial course work at another college; and

24 WHEREAS, in March 2009, the higher education department
25 and New Mexico institutions of higher education formed a

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1 developmental education task force in an initial effort to
2 study developmental education in New Mexico, and the higher
3 education department is willing to continue the work that was
4 started by this task force;

5 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE
6 STATE OF NEW MEXICO that the higher education department be
7 requested to continue the task force to study developmental
8 education at community colleges; and

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force recommend ways
10 to improve student performance based on best practices,
11 establish data benchmarks and measurements for developmental
12 education and recommend funding incentives to improve student
13 success; and

14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the findings and
15 recommendations of the task force be presented to the
16 legislative education study committee by September 1, 2011; and

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this memorial be
18 transmitted to the secretary of higher education.

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