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SENATE MEMORIAL 38

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

INTRODUCED BY

John M. Sapien

A MEMORIAL

DECLARING THE WEEK OF FEBRUARY 7 THROUGH 14, 2014 AS "NEW MEXICO STEM EDUCATION WEEK IN THE SENATE" AND ANNOUNCING VOLUNTARY TARGETS FOR NEW MEXICO REGARDING SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS.

WHEREAS, teachers, industry leaders, parents and other citizens took part in a two-day science, technology, engineering and mathematics summit in November 2012, sponsored by the New Mexico partnership for math and science education and organized by New Mexico first; and

WHEREAS, that group formed a collective impact team that has worked for fourteen months to research and advance sound policies and practices regarding science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in New Mexico; and

WHEREAS, the New Mexico economy is highly reliant on the

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1 science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields,
2 including energy development, national laboratories, health
3 care and high-technology companies; and

4 WHEREAS, New Mexico's economic development priorities call
5 for expansion of science, technology, engineering and
6 mathematics fields; and

7 WHEREAS, national labor market research predicts that the
8 American work force will need one hundred twenty-three million
9 workers for high-skill jobs by 2020, but only fifty million
10 Americans are expected to qualify for them; and

11 WHEREAS, the rising number of retirees in the "baby
12 boomer" generation will further reduce the number of science,
13 technology, engineering and mathematics professionals,
14 particularly engineers, in the nation's and New Mexico's labor
15 force; and

16 WHEREAS, the federal government set a national target of
17 ten thousand new science and mathematics teachers per year to
18 educate the next generation of science, technology, engineering
19 and mathematics professionals; and

20 WHEREAS, New Mexico adopted the common core state
21 standards, requiring additional professional development of
22 mathematics teachers;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE
24 OF NEW MEXICO that the week of February 7 through 14, 2014 be
25 declared "New Mexico STEM Education Week in the Senate"; and

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
2 department be requested to develop a plan for consideration and
3 possible adoption of the next-generation science standards and
4 report to the legislature by fall 2014 its intentions regarding
5 potential implementation as well as roll-out of the common core
6 state standards in mathematics; and

7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the public education
8 department, the higher education department and the private
9 sector each work to advance the following voluntary targets:

10 A. New Mexico will certify one thousand new science
11 and mathematics teachers by 2020;

12 B. New Mexico will demonstrate a twenty-five
13 percent increase in the number of high school students
14 measurably proficient in mathematics by 2020;

15 C. public post-secondary educational institutions
16 will coordinate with one another and present to the legislature
17 by December 2014 information on combined efforts to reform the
18 pre-service teacher programs that will prepare the next
19 generation of science and mathematics educators; and

20 D. New Mexico will increase the college graduation
21 rate in science, technology, engineering and mathematics fields
22 by twenty-five percent by 2020; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the departments, public post-
24 secondary educational institutions and private sector partners
25 be requested to present progress on these goals to the

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1 legislative education study committee annually for the next
2 three years; and

3 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be
4 transmitted to the governor, the secretaries of public
5 education and higher education, the presidents of public post-
6 secondary educational institutions, the chairs of the
7 legislative education study committee and the legislative
8 finance committee, New Mexico first and the New Mexico
9 partnership for math and science education.