

February 8, 2020

Secretary Kate O'Neill
NM Higher Education Department
2044 Galisteo St., #4
Santa Fe, NM 87505



Dear Secretary O'Neill:

On behalf of the Council of University Presidents (CUP), the New Mexico Association of Community Colleges (NMACC), and the New Mexico Independent Community Colleges (NMICC), we write in support of the New Mexico Opportunity Scholarship.

As representatives of the state's higher education community, we know the critical importance of expanding access to higher education for New Mexicans. We are clear that the Opportunity Scholarship will be an investment that will benefit New Mexico for generations to come, enabling more New Mexicans to overcome the obstacle of tuition in achieving their higher education and career goals. In addition to creating new educational opportunities for New Mexico students and returning adults, this legislation will grow and strengthen the state's workforce, furthering New Mexico's economic development and providing a better future for New Mexico families.

We are grateful for the continued collaboration between our organizations, your department and the governor. We look forward to standing in support of this essential legislation and working with the Legislature to see the Opportunity Scholarship become a reality for tens of thousands of New Mexicans.

Sincerely,

Dr. Joe Shepard
Chair
CUP

Dr. Becky Rowley
Chair
NMICC

Dr. Cindy Rooney
Chair
NMACC