

Creating the Highest Goals and Strategies for Highlands University

By State Senator Pete Campos

I look forward to the day that New Mexico Highlands University is consistently recognized in national education and business circles for its rigorous and competitive academic, athletic, research and transformational environment, standards and achievements. *The more we share with each other, the better we all become.* Every student should be provided the resources needed to learn and develop an academically inquisitive mind.

Congratulations to Senator Manny M. Aragon for being selected as the next president of Highlands. I pledge my continuous and full support to make Highlands the premier Hispanic-serving university in the country. I offer the following suggestions to continue focusing on our commitment to the Highlands University family.

Every graduate should leave with the core **leadership** education and experience necessary to excel in the job market. An endorsement on each Highlands University graduate's diploma would indicate that leadership emphasis.

Highlands and its technology partners should join efforts to construct a **mega hub and command center** on campus. Highlands can become a renowned center for top-level technology, hardware and software development. Our information galaxy could become boundless.

We should strive to make Highlands University an **international university**, reflecting the myriad of languages in New Mexico and the region, expanding and fostering cultural understanding and becoming a leader in the education of others in

diplomatic relations. Highlands can become as renowned as, for example, the Fletcher School at Tufts University.

University staff should begin a full assessment of **student academic performance** in an effort to tailor intellectual and physical fields of study to meet each student's educational interests and potential.

Each student must be provided **individualized assistance** in academic preparation, personal issues and career focus.

Highlands should work to develop the best **public speaking, broadcasting, debate and film production center** among New Mexico's colleges and universities. Even students who do not go into one of these careers will benefit from the development of their communications intellect and convince others of their ability to convey their thoughts in a persuasive manner.

It is critical that we maximize the essential resources necessary to provide the most viable **employment and higher education guidance center** for students. The center would provide students with in-depth individual guidance to keep them headed toward their academic and employment goals.

Highlands University should formalize a university investment center and prioritize a second-to-none **research and intellectual properties division** that would work to copyright and safeguard the brain trust of those who are compensated to conduct research, pursue inventions, publish, produce ideas and theories, and foster transformational methods of accomplishment on behalf of the university.

Finally, Highlands should concentrate efforts on the strongest possible **capital asset resource, development and planning center** to plan capital projects, strategically

leverage additional funds for the projects and maximize resources for academic, athletic, recreational, residential and investment property improvement.

As a Highlands fan and a state senator from Las Vegas, I am committed to ensuring Highlands' success. I will continue to welcome and push for legislative initiatives that benefit Highlands and I encourage community members who have suggestions on how to improve our university to share those suggestions with me.

Highlands University is poised to help its students achieve success. The progress we've made in the past—including the securing of funds for planning the center for the education and study of diverse populations, the construction of an early childhood center addition to the Victoria D. de Sanchez Teacher Education Center and improvements to the golf course—should and will continue with the unwavering support of the university administration, the alumni, the student body and the state's legislative leadership. We need to connect our educational offerings from early childhood through doctorate level degrees. The future of Highlands is bright. More importantly, we have reason to be optimistic that we can provide our students with the best academic setting possible, a positive attitude and the resources they need for a lifetime of academic challenge and stimulation.
