

New Mexico State Senate

State Capitol
Santa Fe

December 14, 2017

SENATOR PETE CAMPOS

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COMMITTEES:

MEMBER:

- Committees' Committee
- Finance

INTERIM COMMITTEES:

MEMBER:

- Legislative Finance Committee
- Committee on Compacts
- Interim Legislative Ethics Committee
- Investments & Pensions Oversight Committee
- Jobs Council

ADVISORY MEMBER:

- Legislative Council
- Water & Natural Resources Committee

To Whom it May Concern:

Education is the key to overcoming most of New Mexico's challenges, whether economic or social. A good education and a good educational system result in a skilled, productive workforce; civic-minded community members; higher wages; reduced crime; less strain on social services; and a host of other benefits.

We often focus on the benefits of early childhood education and kindergarten through high school — and it is certainly true that it is important to devote time, energy and money to those programs — but New Mexico's commitment to vocational education is equally important.

I have been and always will be a strong supporter of Luna Community College (LCC). The skills, training and education that LCC and its dedicated instructors provide to New Mexicans is invaluable.

My support for LCC began long before my seven-year tenure as president of the institution. I have long recognized LCC's role as a centerpiece in our community and in northeastern New Mexico.

Our shared support for LCC can manifest itself in many ways.

Financially, I invite you to join me at every opportunity to support LCC. We can vote to approve the school's bond issues, and you can join me in supporting increased state appropriations to LCC, both for ongoing expenses and for one-time capital improvements. With that support necessarily comes the need to support sufficient state revenues, either through revenue increases or other expenditure reductions.

Institutionally, we must all work to ensure that LCC remains an accredited educational institution in northeastern New Mexico, providing both a good education to the students who attend and good jobs to the staff employed there. We expect, and must demand, that LCC continue to provide a rigorous academic program that leads to the certifications and degrees necessary for students to gain meaningful employment. LCC's

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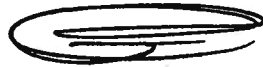
offerings of college-level courses to high school students and other innovations demonstrate the school's ability and willingness to fill this role.

It is critical that LCC retain the accreditations necessary for it to continue as a viable and relevant piece of New Mexico's higher education system.

While the governance of LCC is certainly important, I believe the question of who performs that task is more important to the administration than to the students, instructors or community, which is why my focus will remain on ensuring student success. Myriad options will and should be explored to ensure that LCC's students and instructors have the administrative support they need to succeed.

I invite you to join me in supporting LCC, its students, its instructors and its mission to improve the lives of northeastern New Mexicans.

Siempre,

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Pete Campos'.

PETE CAMPOS

PC:nm