

New Mexicans can work together in hope, outreach and service

Santa Fe New Mexican · 6 Jan 2019 · Pete Campos is a state senator from Las Vegas, N.M. He is a Democrat. PETE CAMPOS

Today's youth are anxious to complete an educational degree, jump-start their careers and begin earning good wages. As a significant multicultural population, we all have high hopes that our way of life can be successfully and meaningfully passed on to our families.

To do this, a deep understanding of our majestic landscapes, life with scarce water sources, foods, art, music, lowrider and motorcycle clubs, life in small communities, farms, ranches and unique personal experiences is essential.

Once our way of life is fully integrated and each person is recognized for our purpose — regardless where we choose to live — then the state's collage of talents, products and services will “operate as one,” and we will rise to the top of the country's good lists.

Yes, we have already made great progress, but new administrations come in with invaluable input from constituents and set their compass direction accordingly. While immediate strides will be made during the 2019 60-day legislative session, a much deeper and broader view will ensue as a result of the session's outcome.

This will not be easy, and it will take the next three years to establish the platform for long-term success. This first year we will take a full inventory of our resources, the second year we will prioritize our needs with available funds and by the third year our vision and initiatives will have been vetted and rolled out. Then, in the fourth year and beyond, how we have prepared for our future will be measured by our outreach and outcomes, global competitiveness and the vitality of our health, educational and economic services.

Making New Mexico first takes all of us working together. There is room to respect each other's differences, but there is no room for lopsided program and infrastructure improvements. For example: While we have an oil boom in southeastern New Mexico with one of the largest — if not the largest — oil reserves in the world and an unprecedented enthusiasm for filmmaking in Central New Mexico, we have infrastructure and unintended consequences that come with this quick growth. A balanced energy roadmap is another essential component of any plan moving forward. We also have needs across the state, from acequia users in Northern New Mexico to farmers in southeastern New Mexico and in small communities in every corner of New Mexico.

The array of needs is enormous, the resources — while seemingly abundant — are finite and our human potential is priceless. When you really think about this combination, the thought stands out that we can find solutions to our problems, rise to the challenges that confront each generation and look deep within ourselves to know that we have great potential when we seek out and meld our talents to leave our state better than we found it.

In the days to come, let's strengthen our bond, work in unison and craft legislation that makes sense for the needs of those depending for their livelihoods on our vast public lands while respecting the life-

styles of those using those same lands for personal health and outdoor enjoyment. It can happen if we hope, reach out, serve and communicate with one another.

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