The Associated Students
Of
New Mexico State University

SENATE FLOOR SUBSTITUTE FOR
RESOLUTION #23

The attached legislation has been properly approved by the members of the Sixty Second Senate of the Associated Students of New Mexico State University in accordance with ASNMSU Law.

Bethany Mendoza, ASNMSU Chief Senate Clerk
Date 10/4/2016

Linda Cisneros, ASNMSU Vice President
Date 10/8/2016
A RESOLUTION

CONCERNING THE RECOGNITION OF INDIGENOUS PEOPLES’ DAY ON THE SECOND MONDAY OF OCTOBER.

WHEREAS, the Associated Students of New Mexico State University is both the servant and agent of the student community; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the ASNMSU to equally listen to and acknowledge the concerns of Indigenous students from the Americas, who suffer from the loss of cultural knowledge and homeland due to the colonization of the Americas; and

WHEREAS, the recognition of Columbus Day fails to recognize historical realities, including atrocious acts, genocide, and institutional oppression, and has fallen short of listening to the outcries of the Indigenous peoples of the Americas; and

WHEREAS, by the heightening of colonization and by United States laws and treaties, Native Americans were forcefully confined to execrable reservations, where they faced and continue to face harrowing problems, such as missing and murdered Indigenous women; and

WHEREAS, the ASNMSU recognizes that Native Americans, who once were one-hundred percent of the United States population, are now estimated to be at two percent of the United States population, and that the history is interwoven in the arts, wisdom, technology, science, and the philosophy of Indigenous Peoples’, influencing New Mexican values; and

WHEREAS, recognizing their perseverance from those countless grave historical injustices and recognizing the battles they still face to this day; and

WHEREAS, the ASNMSU would like to honor our nation’s Indigenous roots and history by listening to and addressing the need for greater educational access and opportunity for Indigenous students and faculty; and

WHEREAS, we recognize that the New Mexico State University-Main Campus has approximately 600 students with Indigenous heritage, who seek help from various diversity organizations that help Indigenous students struggling with identity issues to find and value who they are; and

WHEREAS, by celebrating Indigenous Peoples’ Day we stand in support of NMSU diversity institutions such as the American Indian Program and Chicano Programs who by inclusivity, make impactful and successful strides to
recruit, retain, and graduate Indigenous students in higher education, and that they need our utmost assistance to be successful; and

WHEREAS, the student led contributions of the Native American Business Student Association, the United Native American Organization, the American Indian Science and Engineering Society, the Hispanic Council, the Black Student Association, the AgGays, the Military and Veterans Programs, and many more great student organizations that make significant impacts in giving a voice to those who are marginalized; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples’ Day was first proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the United Nations sponsored International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, representing 59 Tribes from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Northern California, Western Montana and some Alaskan Tribes, passed resolution #11-57 to "Support to Change Columbus Day (2nd Monday of October) to Indigenous Peoples’ Day"; and

WHEREAS, we recognize the Canadian governments celebration and recognition of the unique heritage, diverse cultures, and outstanding achievements of the First Nations, Inuit, and Métis Indigenous peoples in their National Indigenous Peoples’ Day; and

WHEREAS, many Latin American countries recognize el Día de la Raza, celebrating in many different ways, but in most part to recognize the perseverance of cultures; and

WHEREAS, the ASNMSU strongly supports the proposition that Indigenous Peoples’ Day shall be an opportunity to celebrate the thriving cultures and values of the Indigenous people of the region.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, the Associated Students of New Mexico State University unites with the Indigenous Peoples’ of the Americas by officially recognizing Indigenous Peoples’ Day on the second Monday of October.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Senate of ASNMSU firmly commits to continue its efforts to promote the well-being and growth of the Indigenous Communities of the Americas.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the Senate of the Associated Students of New Mexico State University recommends that the University’s Academic Calendar be amended to annually recognize Indigenous Peoples’ Day on the second Monday of October, and consider creating a Diversity Calendar to acknowledge and respect our culturally diverse student body.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, the intent of this resolution is not to place blame or alter history, but to recognize it as it does not impede on the rights of students or student organizations in recognizing Columbus Day as provided by federal statute.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that copies be sent to the American Indian Program, NMSU Board of Regents, NMSU Chancellor, NMSU President, NMSU Dean of Students, the Chair of the Faculty Senate, the ASNMSU President, ASNMSU Vice President, NMSU College Councils, United States Senator Martin Heinrich, United States Senator Tom Udall, United States House Representative Michelle Lujan Grisham, United States House Representative Steve Pearce, United States House Representative Ben Ray Luján, the New Mexico State Legislature, Mayor of Las Cruces Ken Miyagishima, City Council of Las Cruces, and Governor of New Mexico Susana Martinez.