

RECOGNIZING HOPKINSVILLE  
COMMUNITY COLLEGE

**HON. ED WHITFIELD**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Hopkinsville Community College.

Learning does not end at high school and whether you are 22 or 92, learning is lifelong. Today, I want to bring to the attention of this House that Hopkinsville Community College in western Kentucky proudly celebrates 40 years of higher education to the citizens of Christian County and surrounding communities in the First Congressional District.

Mr. Speaker, we need to make it easier for Americans to receive necessary training, to earn a degree, or to take specialized courses that meet the demands of today's job market and help our fellow citizens achieve their full potential. Community colleges like Hopkinsville Community College are an essential part of that effort.

Hopkinsville Community College bridges the gap between people's lives as they are and their lives as they want them to be. Flexibility and courses tailored to individual goals are characteristic of this exceptional community college.

Hopkinsville Community College has been a significant contributor to the economic growth and vitality of Hopkinsville and Christian County. The state of the art training and technology center tailors course work to meet the demands of high tech industry and specialized training.

Hopkinsville Community College also offers tremendous outreach to first generation college students through its Upward Bound/Trio Programs highlighting the flexibility and opportunity that community colleges provide to both traditional and nontraditional students.

Mr. Speaker, I was pleased to see that President Bush has proposed in his 2006 budget providing \$125 million to promote dual-enrollment programs, so that high school students can take college level courses and receive both high school and post-secondary credit. This new initiative would provide incentives to states so that high school students, particularly low-income and minority high school students, have a greater chance to receive a college education.

Hopkinsville Community College has also partnered with Murray State University to open a campus in Hopkinsville that offers transferable college coursework that will count towards a four year degree. All of these efforts provide convenience, affordability, and flexibility to more of our citizens.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, our community, our state and our Nation are better because of the educational opportunities offered by our community colleges. Hopkinsville Community College is proudly celebrating Forty Years of higher education service and it is my honor to bring their accomplishments before this House.

INTRODUCING THE NAVAJO NATION  
HIGHER EDUCATION ACT  
OF 2005

**HON. RICK RENZI**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Navajo Nation Higher Education Act of 2005.

In 1868, the United States of America signed a treaty with the Navajo Tribe of Indians to provide for the education of the citizens of the Navajo Nation. At this time, the United States government recognized the trust responsibility to serve the educational needs of the Navajo people.

In 1968, the Navajo Nation created and chartered the Navajo Community College as a wholly-owned educational entity of the Navajo Nation. In 1971, Congress affirmed this effort by the Navajo Nation and enacted the Navajo Community College Act. In 1997, the Navajo Nation officially changed the name of the Navajo Community College to Diné College.

Mr. Speaker, the Navajo Nation Higher Education Act reauthorizes the 1971 Navajo Community College Act and modernizes the statute by including the mission statement and Navajo education philosophy of Diné College. Diné College educates students by applying the principles of Diné philosophy to advance quality student learning through training of the heart and the mind.

Over the years, facilities at Diné College have deteriorated, creating serious health safety risks to students, employees and the public. This legislation provides funding to address Diné College's facility needs such as modernization, repair and rehabilitation. In addition, this important legislation requires a survey and study of Diné College's facility needs.

Finally, to ensure equitable funding for Diné College, the Navajo Nation Higher Education Act provides funding for Diné College separate from the other tribal colleges and universities.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the Navajo Nation Higher Education Act of 2005. It is our government's responsibility to provide educational opportunities to the Navajo people in a safe and healthy environment.

GROUNDBREAKING OF EDWARDS,  
COLORADO FREEDOM PARK

**HON. MARK UDALL**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the ground breaking of the Freedom Park Memorial located in Edwards.

Once built, the Freedom Park Memorial will feature a building and a lakeside memorial park to celebrate freedom and to commemorate the personal sacrifices of the men and women who have served in our Armed Forces and our emergency services.

The idea for the Freedom Park Memorial originated with several local veterans, including Buddy Sims, and has grown into a valley wide grass roots effort including a steering committee, the board of directors and their

subcommittees, Eagle County community leaders, the three county commissioners, business professionals, military veterans, and emergency service personnel from local police and fire departments, and mountain rescue.

Mr. Speaker, the Freedom Park Memorial will be used as an educational tool for visitors, teachers, and students. It will feature a "Time Wall" that will list the conflicts involving United States forces since the Revolutionary War. The Freedom Park will also commemorate emergency responders. In addition, the names of Eagle County residents who lost their lives while serving in the armed forces will be inscribed in the Veterans Memorial; Eagle County emergency responders who lost their lives in duty will have their names inscribed at the Emergency Responders Memorial.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing The Freedom Park Memorial and to celebrate the personal sacrifices of the men and women of Eagle County who have served in our Armed Forces and our emergency responders.

INTRODUCING THE AMTRAK REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2005 AND THE RAIL INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT AND EXPANSION ACT FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

**HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, April 14, 2005*

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, today I join Chairman YOUNG, Railroad Subcommittee Chairman LATOURETTE, and Subcommittee Ranking Member BROWN, in introducing two bills: the Amtrak Reauthorization Act of 2005 and the Rail Infrastructure Development and Expansion Act for the 21st Century (RIDE 21).

The Amtrak Reauthorization Act of 2005 will provide Amtrak \$2 billion for each of Fiscal Years 2006 through 2008. RIDE 21 will provide \$56 billion for new high-speed rail development for passenger and freight rail improvements. Last Congress, I joined Chairman YOUNG, Subcommittee Ranking Member BROWN, and the former Chairman of the Railroad Subcommittee, Congressman JACK QUINN, in introducing these bills. The Transportation and Infrastructure Committee reported the bills, but unfortunately, no further action was taken. This year, we have a new Chairman of the Railroad Subcommittee. We talked about what we wanted to do on Amtrak and high-speed rail, and we all agreed that these bills are the right approach.

The wrong approach is the President's plan: zero-out funding for Amtrak; eliminate the high-speed rail program; and provide \$360 million to the Surface Transportation Board to run commuter operations should Amtrak shut down. In short, the Administration's plan is to pass legislation that, if enacted, would destroy Amtrak and our Nation's intercity passenger rail system.

The Administration, in a letter sent to the Speaker of the House yesterday, said that Amtrak has not evolved with the rest of the transportation sector and that structural reform is needed to make Amtrak a viable transportation alternative. Well, to the extent there is any truth to allegations that Amtrak hasn't evolved like the rest of the transportation sector, there is a good explanation. For too many