

as a leader in many areas of research, including homeland security, hydrology, astrophysics, atmospheric physics, geophysics, information technology, geosciences, energetic materials engineering, and petroleum recovery. Students come to tech for its outstanding academic reputation, hands-on laboratory learning experiences, opportunities for employment in one of their many research facilities, and its beautiful Southwestern setting.

In the past, I have strongly supported New Mexico Tech and have helped them secure defense and homeland security appropriations funding. In return, they have provided the country with first rate research giving American defense and homeland security planners' better technology to protect military personnel and civilians from attack. They have been on the forefront of homeland security research, antiterrorism efforts, and bringing new job opportunities to the central New Mexico region. The school's hard work and record of success has made it easy for me to convince my colleagues that New Mexico Tech is a good investment. I am very pleased with the dynamic coming out of this wonderful school and I encourage them to keep up the good work.

I ask unanimous consent that a copy of an article entitled "New Mexico Tech Second on 'Best Value' College List" be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the ABQJOURNAL, Apr. 18, 2005]

NEW MEXICO TECH SECOND ON 'BEST VALUE' COLLEGE LIST

SOCORRO—The New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology ranked second on The Princeton Review's 2006 edition of the nation's "best value" colleges.

New Mexico Tech's Web site listed its annual undergraduate cost for tuition, room and board and books as \$8,750 for 2004-2005 academic year, which includes \$3,280 a year in tuition and fees. Earlier this month, Tech's regents approved a 10 percent tuition increase.

Bates College in Lewiston, Maine, whose tuition, room and board costs roughly \$40,000 a year, was ranked the nation's "best value" college. Bates, fifth in the previous year's rankings, topped the new "America's Best Value Colleges," which hits the bookstores Tuesday.

The Princeton Review said all 81 schools on the list offer outstanding academics, generous financial aid packages and relatively low costs.

"It's always pleasing to be recognized and acknowledged for the good work of our faculty as well as our students," Dan Lopez, president of Tech, said Monday. "It does give us a certain amount of presence in the higher education community."

And, he said, it makes people aware of a small school in a more remote area.

"We really have an outstanding school," Lopez said. "We're very proud of it."

George Zamora, a spokesman for Tech, said it's the first time the school has cracked the top 10, although it has been on the overall "best value" list for years.

New Mexico Tech primarily focuses on science and engineering at both the undergraduate and graduate level.

The rest of the 2006 top 10: Brigham Young University of Provo, Utah; Hendrix College, Conway, Ark.; University of California-Los Angeles; New College of Florida, Sarasota; City University of New York-Brooklyn College; City University of New York-Queens College; William Jewell College, Liberty, Mo.; and Hanover College, Hanover, Ind.

The Princeton Review, an education services company with no connection to Princeton University, compiled the list and its book from data obtained from administrators at more than 350 colleges and from surveys of college students.

The Princeton Review said its rankings were based on more than 30 factors in four categories: academics, tuition, financial aid and student borrowing.

"Bottom line: the 81 schools that met our criteria for this book are all great college education deals," said Robert Franek, the company's vice president for publishing. •

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGES FROM THE HOUSE

At 5:07 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 276h, and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Mexico-United States Interparliamentary Group: Mr. KOLBE of Arizona, Chairman and Ms. HARRIS of Florida, Vice Chairman.

The message also announced that pursuant to 14 U.S.C. 194(a), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Coast Guard Academy: Mr. SIMMONS of Connecticut.

The message also announced that pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 4355(a), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following Members of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Military Academy: Mrs. KELLY of New York and Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina.

The message also announced that pursuant to 46 U.S.C. 1295b(h), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Speaker appoints the following Member of the House of Representatives to the Board of Visitors to the United States Merchant Marine Academy: Mr. KING of New York.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-1811. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, the report of a proposed bill entitled "Passenger Rail Investment Reform Act," received on April 18, 2005; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1812. A communication from the Commandant, United States Coast Guard, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of proposed legislation entitled "Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2005"; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-1813. A communication from the Under Secretary, Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, Department of Agriculture, the report of a rule entitled "Food Stamp Program, Regulatory Review: Standards for Approval and Operation of the Food Stamp Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) Systems" (RIN0584-AC37) received on April 18, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1814. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tuberculosis in Cattle and Bison; State and Zone Designations; California" (APHIS Docket No. 05-010-1) received on April 18, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1815. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Milk in the Northeast Marketing Area—Final Order" (DA-02-01; AO-14-A70) received on April 18, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1816. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Milk in the Pacific Northwest Marketing Area—Final Order" (DA-01-08-PNW; AO-368-A30) received on April 18, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-1817. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulation Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Tax Exempt Bond Partnership Lookthrough II" (Rev. Proc. 2005-20) received on April 18, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1818. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulation Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Withholding Exemptions" ((RIN1545-BE21) (TD 9196)) received on April 18, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1819. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulation Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Classification of Certain Foreign Entities" ((RIN1545-BD78) (TD 9197)) received on April 18, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-1820. A communication from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a transaction involving U.S. exports to Kenya; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.