





College of Arts and Sciences

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Date: May 8, 2019

To: Tina Byford, Interim Vice President, NMSU Foundation
Chair, NMSU Naming Committee

Through: Dr. Enrico Pontelli, Dean, College of Arts and Sciences 

From: Professor Julia Barello, Academic Department Head, Art 

Re: Proposed naming of Devasthali Hall, Sculpture Facility, Room 124

The Department of Art proposes an honorific naming for the Sculpture Facility, Room 124 in the new Devasthali Hall in honor of one of our most consistent and long-term community advocates, the Honorable J. Paul Taylor.

Arts advocate, educator and former State Representative J. Paul Taylor has dedicated a lifetime to public service, which has substantively impacted the lives New Mexicans. Paul was a teacher, principal and served nine terms in the state legislature, retiring at age 83. J. Paul's contributions to the quality of life in southern New Mexico, and his support for education, arts and cultural advancement have been notable. His legacy to the state will include the Taylor Family Monument, his current home with its extensive collection of Spanish Colonial, Mexican and New Mexican artwork which are part of the Taylor-Barela-Reynolds-Mesilla Historic Site. The household art collection dates from the 1500's with historical paintings, photographs and artifacts; to contemporary art works which are grouped in a room which highlights the art of local artists and artisans. Rugs, furniture, pottery and textiles combine to create an unparalleled expression and celebration of innovation, craft and art.

Taylor was instrumental in securing financial support from the state to begin the conservation of the retablo and ex-voto collection of the New Mexico State University Art Gallery, considered the largest public collection of such religious images in the United States. Annually, J. Paul Taylor donates to the NMSU Museum Conservation Program, and to the Jose Cisneros Travel Grant, a competitive scholarship which supports travel and research opportunities for art students.

Taylor has received many other honors for his public service, including a New Mexico Endowment for the Humanities "Contribution to the Arts" award in 2000 and a state Historic Preservation Division "Heritage Preservation Lifetime Achievement Award" in 2004. It would be fitting to add the Honorable J. Paul Taylor's name to the new Devasthali Hall Sculpture facility in recognition of his extensive contributions to the promotion of the arts within our State.