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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/29/09

SPONSOR Vigil LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 216

SHORT TITLE NMHU Substance Abuse Education Programs SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Haug

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$150.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 216 appropriates \$150.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University for substance abuse student education programs.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$150.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of Fiscal Year 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The HED states that this request was submitted by NMHU to the HED for review. The Department would have a neutral recommendation for this project for FY10, if the State's fiscal outlook improves.

The LFC Appropriation Recommendations, Volume II, pages 364-365 states:

The committee has concerns about the growth of research and public service projects within the higher education budget, as well as the alignment of these projects with state goals and strategic plans. The committee also continues to have significant concerns about accountability and performance outcomes for these projects.

The committee recommendation reduces funding included in the HED request by varying levels from FY09 funding amounts for research projects, public service projects and P-20 pipeline projects focusing on students.

With respect to special projects, higher education institutions advanced 114 proposals for new projects and expansions at a total general fund cost of \$54 million during the HED budget request process in fall 2008.

According to the December 2008 revenue estimate, FY10 recurring revenue will only support a base expenditure level that is \$293 million, or 2.6 percent, less than the FY09 appropriation. All appropriations outside of the general appropriation act will be viewed in this declining revenue context.

The Executive Budget in Brief notes that over the years more than 300 RPSPs have been created, accounting for a large portion of institution budgets. The current RPSPs were reviewed while considering the relevance of the project to the core mission of the institution, the community benefit and the outcomes associated with each project. (Budget in Brief and Policy Highlights, P 9-10.)

NMHU states that in 2005 a federal grant was awarded to NMHU to help address substance abuse and suicide rate issues at Highlands University and ended in FY08. NMHU believes the apparent success from on campus and community efforts implemented in Las Vegas may be diminishing. As such NMHU seeks to maintain and build the initiative with state appropriations. The main goal of the program is to provide campus wide drinking/alcohol poisoning, and violence and prevention training. The intended outcome is to reduce the number of alcohol related incidences on campus and ultimately to reduce state and business expenses related to substance abuse. The funding will specifically support;

- The screening of approximately 400 students to learn more about attitudes, behaviors and perceptions about alcohol and substance abuse issues, and
- Provide brief intervention and treatment to approximately 300 student's campus wide.

The bill replaces federal funds no longer available. Also, the funding is significantly lower than past federal funding.

GH/svb