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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/18/09

SPONSOR Martinez, K. LAST UPDATED _____ HB 650

SHORT TITLE UNM Julian Samora Legacy Project SB _____

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
 Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)
 Department of Cultural Affairs (DCA)

No Responses Received From

University of New Mexico (UNM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 650 appropriates \$100.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico to support the work of the Julian Samora Legacy Project housed at the Southwest Hispanic Research Institute at UNM.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of any Fiscal Year shall not revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The HED states that this request was not submitted by UNM to the HED for review and is not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY10.

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.)

The DFA states that the \$100.0 recurring appropriation would further strain the already limited General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of the fiscal year shall not revert to the General Fund.

The bill text states that the project, named for the first Mexican-American to receive a Ph.D. in sociology in the United States, furthers teaching excellence, leadership development and groundbreaking research initiatives and disseminates the rich primary source material found in the Samora archives.

The HED states that the Julian Samora Legacy Project has formally been in existence since 2000. UNM has officially been involved in the project for one year. The Julian Samora project at UNM is dedicated to making the research and scholarship of Dr. Samora more widely known and available to future generations of students, educators, policymakers, and community leaders. UNM will use the funds for the development of a video documentary of Dr. Julian Samora; the writing of an intellectual biography of Dr. Samora; a nationwide leadership training summer internship for high school teachers; the creation of an e-curriculum course for high school students; the establishment of a Julian Samora summer research grant; and the provision of scholarships, tuition waivers, and a monthly stipend for graduate and undergraduate students involved in the Julian Samora Legacy Project.

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The HED notes further that the Julian Samora Legacy Project is a collaboration among the University of Texas, Michigan State University, the University of Notre Dame, and the University of New Mexico to make the papers of anthropologist Julian Samora more accessible for research. The Julian Samora project is one of the many programs and activities conducted at the Southwest Hispanic Research Institute (SHRI) which promotes multidisciplinary research on the Hispanic populations of the United States and fosters public service regarding the communities of New Mexico.

According to the DCA, Julian Samora's work and influence is significant in any environment where Latino/as Studies are offered and where Latino/as live. Still, it is not clear how important the project is to the University of New Mexico and how important the University of New Mexico is to the project. HB650 emphasizes academic work in Julian Samora's papers which are held by the University of Texas at Austin. While some people in the Julian Samora Legacy Project seem to believe that the Julian Samora Archives will be transferred for three years to the University of New Mexico, it seems highly unlikely for UT Austin to let these papers go, even if only temporarily, under any circumstances.

GH/mt