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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/30/09

SPONSOR Fischmann LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE NMSU Alliance for Advancement of Teaching SB 204

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)
Public Education Department (PED)
New Mexico State University (NMSU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 204 appropriates \$100.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for the P-20 Alliance for the Advancement of Teaching and Learning.

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 Fiscal Year 2010 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The HED states that this request was submitted by NMSU 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.)

NMSU states that the P-20 Alliance plans to expand its support in addressing New Mexico's educational issues, which include: accountability, literacy, leadership development, math and science achievement, and program evaluation as well as other district identified needs. In addition, a literacy center and research communication center will be developed to provide assistance and expertise for border and rural schools. The P-20 Alliance provides opportunities for increasing the effectiveness and efficiency of resource acquisition, professional development, and will also use these funds to start up and develop the Literacy Center and the Alliance Research Communication Center through collaborative group efforts. This request was approved by the NMSU Board of Regents.

The PED notes that this initiative may impact the public school performance measures of the annual cohort graduation rate. It has the potential to help increase academic excellence and student achievement and ensure students graduate from high school better prepared to succeed in postsecondary education and the world of work.

GH/svb