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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/30/09

SPONSOR Nava LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE NM TECH Summer Science Program SB 289

ANALYST Haug

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Public Education Department (PED)

Department of Finance and Administration (DFA)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 289 appropriates \$50.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology to provide scholarships to cover the tuition for New Mexico high school students attending a summer science program.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50.0 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 not submitted by NMSU 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 notes that although this is an existing program for high school students, the appropriation would strain the already limited resources available in the General Fund for FY10.

The PED states:

The Summer Science Program started in California in 1959 as part of the response to Sputnik and expanded to New Mexico Tech in 2003. In 2003 and 2004, one New Mexico student was accepted. In 2005, free tuition was offered, the number of completed applications increased and five students were admitted. In 2006, eight New Mexico students participated, five participated in 2007 and eight students participated in 2008.

The academic program is challenging - lectures in astronomy, physics, calculus and programming are taught at a college upperclass level - but every one of the 36 students receives a very high level of personal attention from the eight resident faculty, so no one is left behind. The spirit of cooperation is reinforced by the absence of grades or formal credit. Teams of three students tackle the asteroid orbit determination research project together.

Over the years many of the SSP participants have gone on to become leaders in their chosen professions and cite the Program as “the educational experience of a lifetime.” The requested \$50.0 would cover expenses for eight students.