

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/2/09

SPONSOR P Griego LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Luna College Science & Math Prep Program SB 372

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY09	FY10		
	\$40.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Public Education Department (PED)

Luna Community College (LCC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 372 appropriates \$40.0 from the general fund to the Higher Education Department for Luna Community College to fund a technical preparatory summer program that teaches mathematics, science and technology skills to high school students from Robertson, West Las Vegas, Santa Rosa, Springer, Maxwell, Mora, and Wagon Mound high schools.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$40.0 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 LCC to the HED for review. The Department would not oppose this project's funding for FY10, if the State's fiscal picture 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.)

LCC states that:

LCC provides services to approximately 80 students per summer. We would like to provide services to more students who are eligible to participate in the program, but due to funding restraints are placed on a waiting list. Additionally, we would like to provide additional courses that would benefit participating students.

The retention rate of the program has been between 85% - 90% with students applying to return for a second or third summer. The program has continued to promote retention by reinforcing each student's belief in their academic abilities and early admission to college. The average grade point average of the participating students has remained at a constant 3.0 or better.

The PED notes that:

Student academic performance levels at the seven high schools (Robertson HS, West Las Vegas HS, Santa Rosa HS, Springer HS, Maxwell HS, Mora HS and Wagon Mound HS) indicate a need for a preparatory summer program:

- In 2007-2008, only 21% of the students of the above-mentioned high schools scored at the proficient or advanced level on the New Mexico Standards-Based Assessment (NMSBA) in grade 11 in Mathematics and only 23% scored at the proficient or advanced level on the NMSBA in Science in grade 11.

- In 2007-2008, only 4% of all 11th graders in these high schools were advanced in Math and only 1% were advanced in Science.

This bill relates directly to performance measures on proficiency in mathematics and supports the PED's efforts to fully implement the standards and benchmarks in science and mathematics.

GH/mt