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AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; AMENDING PROVISIONS GOVERNING
THE TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT FUND; REQUIRING ASSESSMENTS OF
BENEFITS FOR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, RURAL AND TRIBAL
COMMUNITIES AND WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND TRAINING; MAKING AN
APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. Section 21-1-27.2 NMSA 1978 (being Laws
2003, Chapter 367, Section 1) is amended to read:

"21-1-27.2. TECHNOLOGY ENHANCEMENT FUND CREATED--
ALLOCATIONS--APPLICATION REVIEW PANELS.--

A. The "technology enhancement fund" is created in
the state treasury. The fund shall consist of
appropriations, income from investment of the fund, gifts,
grants, donations and bequests. Money in the fund shall not
revert at the end of any fiscal year. The fund shall be
administered by the higher education department. Money in
the fund shall be used to provide matching funds for federal
or private grants to research institutions to support
innovative applied research that advances knowledge and
creates new products and production processes in the fields
of agriculture, biotechnology, biomedicine energy, materials
science, microelectronics, water resources, aerospace,
telecommunications, manufacturing science and similar

1 research areas. Money from the fund shall be expended on
2 warrants of the secretary of finance and administration upon
3 vouchers signed by the secretary of higher education or the
4 secretary's authorized representative.

5 B. Grants from the fund are available to research
6 institutions. A research institution may apply for a grant
7 from the fund in accordance with rules promulgated by the
8 higher education department. Allocations from the fund shall
9 be based on a competitive process with applications reviewed
10 by a panel of scientific and business experts established by
11 the department. The review panel may determine new research
12 areas and shall judge grant proposals based on excellence in
13 research design and possible innovation and an assessment of
14 a proposal's projected:

15 (1) cross-disciplinary, multi-campus and
16 higher education-industry research collaboration; and

17 (2) benefits for economic development and
18 rural and tribal communities.

19 C. To apply for a grant, an applicant must have
20 equal or greater matching money for the proposal from sources
21 other than the state. A grant from the technology
22 enhancement fund shall not be used to supplant matching money
23 that an applicant has expended or encumbered for a previously
24 received grant.

25 D. As used in this section, "research institution" HB 270/a
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1 means Navajo technical university, New Mexico state
2 university, the New Mexico institute of mining and technology
3 or the university of New Mexico." _____

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