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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/06

SPONSOR Hamilton LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 9

SHORT TITLE WNMU Web-Based Teacher Preparation Program SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Earp

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$667.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED), Public Education Department (PED)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 9 appropriates \$667,000 from the General Fund to Western New Mexico University (WNMU) to maintain the web-based teacher preparation program.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$667,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

The sum of \$213,800 was appropriated for this purpose in Chapter 34, Laws of 2005 (Senate Bill 190.) The Legislative Finance Committee funding recommendation for fiscal year 2007 has included this amount as a component of a block-grant appropriation to NMSU for special project expansion. The Executive also recommends continued funding at the \$213,800 level as a separate line-item appropriation. Therefore, approval of the appropriation in this bill would result in the augmentation of the funding contained in HB 2.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

This proposal was endorsed by the WNMU Board of Regents and submitted to the Higher Education Department for consideration during the funding recommendation development process. However, funding has only been recommended at the fiscal year 2006 base level of \$213,800.

## **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

The Public Education Department reports that this proposal could serve to support the Public School Support Quality Performance Measure “to increase the percent of classes taught by ‘highly qualified’ teachers in all schools across the state” and a similar measure in the state accountability plan for the federal *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*, which requires that 100% of core academic subject classrooms are taught by highly qualified teachers by the end of the 2005-06 school year.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

WNMU currently administers the existing web-based teacher licensure program. No additional administrative impact is anticipated if this legislation is enacted.

## **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

This bill is related to an appropriation in House Bill 2. Funding for the web-based teacher preparation program has been recommended by LFC and the Executive for inclusion in the General Appropriation Act.

## **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

In addition to the appropriation contained in this bill, additional general fund resources would be generated in future years through the higher education “Instruction & General” funding formula based upon actual student credit hour enrollments in the teacher licensure program. No specific estimate of the future formula impact of the program has been provided; however, this impact would be substantial if the program is successful.

The web-based teacher licensure program is an ongoing program at WNMU. WNMU is endeavoring to reduce the teacher shortage in New Mexico by offering coursework through its Network for Web-based Teacher Licensure (NeTL). This program offers an important distance learning option that teachers can access online to complete course requirements for licensure and endorsement. This option is particularly important for educators working in rural settings, distant from university and college campuses. The WNMU School of Education is particularly focusing on increasing access students in rural areas and for the Navajo Nation Teacher Education Consortium, which is working to increase the number of Navajo teachers in secondary education.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

If line-item funding is approved for this program, it should be provided on a start-up basis and phased-out within two to three years as resources are generated through the I&G formula. Such start-up funding could better be provided through the Program Development Fund established for this purpose pursuant to Section 21-1-27.4 NMSA 1978.