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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/15/2007

SPONSOR Stapleton LAST UPDATED _____ HB 1170

SHORT TITLE Academic Achievement Gap UNM African American Studies SB _____

ANALYST Moser

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$100.0	Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Companionship: HB 1105, HB1171, HB1173

Relation to: SB 385, SB705

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

NM Higher Education Department (HED)

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 1170 appropriates \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) for the African American Studies Department. The funding has three purposes: to develop bridge programs for high school students and university freshmen to address the achievement gap and prepare students for university coursework in African American Studies; for fellowships and assistantships for graduate and postdoctoral students; and a distinguished lecture series in African American Studies.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100,000 contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY08 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HED indicates that the African American Studies Program at UNM was championed by the Black community in Albuquerque and established in 1970. This program promotes the development of relationships between faculty, staff, and students. It is a multi-disciplinary degree granting program that offers courses that illuminate the literature, history, and culture of the African or Black Diaspora. Upon graduation, participants should have developed strong research, writing, and interpersonal skills.

The initiative in this legislation would support high school students and freshmen in preparation for and success in college, research on issues affecting African Americans, and a distinguished lecture series in African American Studies.

According to the Education Commission of the States, the achievement gap is the disparity in academic achievement separating economically disadvantaged students and students of color from less disadvantaged students. Below-par achievement of minority students nationally remains one of the most pressing problems in education. Black, Hispanic, and American Indian students are much more likely than white students to fall behind in school and drop out, and much less likely to graduate from high school, achieve a college or advanced degree, or earn a middle-class living. A variety of factors affect the achievement gap including students' racial and/or economic background, their parents' education level, their access to high-quality pre-school instruction, school funding, peer influences, teachers' expectations, and curricular and instructional quality.

In New Mexico, according to data produced by the Public Education Department (PED) in 2005, 51.3% of African American students are proficient in reading and 18.4% are proficient in math in the 11th grade. (The levels of attainment are similar for Hispanic and American Indian students.) This compares to 60.3% of white students showing proficiency in reading and 48.5% in math. African Americans comprise 3% of the population in New Mexico. They represented 2.6% of all degrees awarded (certificate, associate's, bachelor's, and graduate) in New Mexico in 2006.

This request was not submitted by UNM to the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) for review and is not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY08.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

Companion bills are:

HB 1105 appropriates \$190,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) for expenditure in FY08 for the Charlie Morrissey Research Hall to repair and maintain existing archival facilities, display space, and provide base resources for faculty led student research focusing on the Black Diasporas at the national and international levels.

HB 1171 appropriates \$100,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) for expenditure in FY08 for a Visiting Scholars in Residence at the Charlie Morrissey Research Hall in the African-American Studies Program.

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HB 1173 appropriates \$300,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) for expenditure in FY08 to build a core faculty in the African American Studies Program to expand the department, create distance learning coursework, conduct research and support undergraduate and graduate students.

Relationship bills are:

SB 385 appropriates \$25,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) for expenditure in FY08 to support the African-American Studies Program.

SB 709 is a related bill that appropriates \$75,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) for expenditure in FY08 for the African-American Student Services Program and operations.

GM/csd