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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Robinson **ORIGINAL DATE** 3/10/07 **H**
LAST UPDATED _____ **B** _____
SHORTTITLE UNM INTERAMERICAN COOPERATION PROGRAM **SB** 377
ANALYST Baca

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 377 appropriates fifty thousand dollars from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico for expenditure in FY08 to pay for an Inter-American Cooperation and Development Program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50,000 contained in this bill is a 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

The NMHED reports that:

The Inter-American Cooperation and Development Program is a joint effort between the Inter-American Institute for Advanced Studies (IMEAM) of the Organization of

American States (OAS) and the Ibero-American Science and Technology Education Consortium (ISTEC). Program funds will be used as follows: provide scholarships to 3,000 New Mexico teachers to take online courses through the Educational Portal of the Americas; hire at least two programmers to bring the coursework online; hire one consulting specialist in Education to design courses and review course content; produce promotional materials for outreach; for Internet fees, and to purchase a new server.

The Educational Portal of the Americas is a virtual classroom program to teach online courses in primary and secondary education and to train faculty at the undergraduate level. Science and Technology coursework is a large component of the virtual classroom program.

ISTEC is a consortium of more than 100 Latin American universities. UNM is a member of this consortium. ISTEC was established as a network to foster scientific engineering and technology education and to provide cost-effective programs for technology transfer throughout the Americas. ISTEC industrial members include Hewlett-Packard, Sun Microsystems, and Motorola. Educational programs include program development, web-based distance learning, and onsite training to improve skills and knowledge of faculty and students. ISTEC is a nonprofit organization housed at UNM.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

NMHED comments that application programs will have to be written to install coursework online.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

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

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The online programs may not be developed.

LRB/mt