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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/23/08

SPONSOR Gutierrez LAST UPDATED _____ HB 174

SHORT TITLE NMSU Chicano Program Outreach & Retention SB _____

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$55.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
New Mexico State University (NMSU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 174 appropriates \$55.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University to hire staff for outreach to and retention of students in Chicano programs.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$55.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2009 shall revert to the general fund.

The HED states that this request was not on the list of priority projects submitted by NMSU to the New Mexico Higher Education Department and was not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY09.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

As highlighted by NMSU, the retention rate for first-time non-minority freshmen to their second year of college at NMSU has been between 75% -76% in the last four years. The same retention

rate for Hispanic students has been between 69%-75% in the same period. A co-hort of 57 first-time Hispanic freshmen at NMSU who accessed various services in Chicano Programs was tracked in the academic year 06-07. Students in this cohort were retained at a rate of 78%. This is evidence that ombudsman services, information on scholarships, and information focused on the needs of first generation students is helpful in increasing retention rates. The increased retention of students and maximization of the use of the Legislative Lottery Scholarship results in increased economic potential for all New Mexicans. The Chicano Programs office has a staff of 2.5 full-time employees (including a secretary). The Hispanic student population of NMSU's main campus is 6,743 students. This results in a student to staff ratio of 2,697 to 1. This is much greater than the student load at other student-support programs. The Chicano Programs office also provides support and leadership development to 12 Hispanic student organizations and is involved with various agencies and departments on campus and in the community. The increase in staff would enable Chicano programs to reach more students of all ethnic and racial backgrounds and help enable them to obtain a higher level of academic achievement.

GH/bb