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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/29/08

SPONSOR Campos LAST UPDATED _____ HB 429

SHORT TITLE ENMU English as a Second Language Institute SB _____

ANALYST Cox

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$175.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Higher Education – HED
 Eastern New Mexico University – ENMU
 Department of Public Education – PED

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 429 requests a hundred seventy-five thousand dollars (\$175,000) appropriation from the General Fund to the board of Regents of Eastern New Mexico University for expenditure in fiscal year 2009 and subsequent fiscal years to create and implement an English as a second language institute, which would provide intensive instruction in the English language to individuals with limited proficiency in English.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

This request was not submitted by ENMU to the New Mexico Higher Education Department and it was not included in the Department's funding recommendations for FY09.

The HED's evaluation table of FY09 Research and Public Service Projects provided to the LFC classifies this project as a "would not oppose if funding available" project. Reasons for this classification decision are not provided. (LFC Report 07-20, Higher Education Department Review of Selected Research and Public Service Projects, January 12, 2008, Table 4, p73.)

The appropriation of one hundred seventy five thousand dollars (\$175,000) contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the General Fund.

Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2009 or next fiscal years shall not revert to the General Fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

HED states:

The New Mexico has a growing population of adult learners in need of career technical education. GED teaching and other postsecondary education also have a significant need for ESL training. The state is home to a substantial population of individuals who have limited English language proficiency. Therefore, many people stand to benefit from the proposed ESL Institute at ENMU. Further, ENMU indicates that there are currently no extant programs or institutes that are similar to the proposed ESL institute. Therefore, there is a population of New Mexico citizens whose educational needs are not currently being serviced.

ENMU notes:

ENMU's ESL institute proposes to fill that (above) need.

ENMU's ESL Institute is designed to provide intensive English language instruction to Limited English Proficiency (LEP) speakers in our region. Using the brand-new language laboratory facility at ENMU, we will provide a variety of models of intensive language training to serve our students and community. ESL courses for ENMU students from foreign countries (especially exchange students from China and Mexico) will be offered in the summer and, as needed, in the academic year. Other Institute functions will include intensive summer outreach programs for the regional community for incoming college students, and year-round collaborations with area K-12 schools that have LEP students in need of language skills. In addition, the Institute will provide services for community members working on their GED and/or citizenship requirements. The Institute will also coordinate professional development opportunities for area teachers who need the pedagogical tools to teach LEP students. As an Hispanic Serving Institution, ENMU has an obligation to serve this population of students and this need.

PED also noted:

- According to the SY 07 New Mexico Standards Based Assessment results, English Language Learner students:
 - Increased Reading proficiency in grades 3, 4, 5 and 8, with the greatest gain in grade 5. These were the strongest gains of any NCLB subgroup.
 - Increased Math proficiency in all but the 11th grade.
 - Increased Science proficiency in grades 3 through 7 and 9. These were the second strongest gains of any NCLB subgroup (average 4%).
- If this bill is passed, ENMU will develop and implement the English as a Second Language Institute. Because adult learners are role models for their children, this will have a positive impact on the English Language Learners of Grades K-12.

PRC/mt