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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/30/08

SPONSOR     K. Martinez     LAST UPDATED                      HB   470  

SHORT TITLE     NMSU Grants Film Technician Program     SB                     

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ANALYST   Haug  

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Economic Development Department (EDD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 470 appropriates \$50.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University to support continued program development at the Grants campus of New Mexico state university for training film technicians, including purchase of equipment, supplies and film and providing stipends for industry mentors to train students.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50.0 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 submitted by New Mexico State University Grants campus to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review and is not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY09. However, in FY08 it did receive non-recurring funding in the amount of \$50,000.

## SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to HED:

HB470 would provide funding support to NMSU-Grants to hire local New Mexico professional film industry mentors to work with students on special film projects and provide them networking contacts in the film industry in New Mexico. The funds would also provide new equipment and supplies needed to prepare students for real world film working. HB470 would increase the number of New Mexico film technicians trained to work in the movie industry. Production companies are required to hire 60% local workers for their film crew; in order to do so, the amount of qualified technicians must continue to increase.

NMSU has been developing a Film Technicians Training Program (FTTP) to train students to work in the film industry. The goal of the NMSU-Grants Digital Film Technology training program in collaboration with PAH-Fest (Project Accessible Hollywood) is to create a rural New Mexico training program to develop crews for the film industry in rural areas where none currently exist. Grants' location in a diverse landscape has made it an increasingly desirous location for film makers.

The NMSU-Grants Digital Film Technology Certificate program was developed with assistance from Ears XXI, a digital film company founded by California filmmaker Christopher Coppola. NMSU-Grants and Ears XXI's mission in film training incorporates educational goals which include helping students to create films for international distribution. As part of this educational outreach, Ears XXI founded PAH-Fest, a digital film festival held in Grants in collaboration with NMSU-Grants faculty and students.

The Governor's initiative to build the film industry potential in New Mexico will provide this unique area of New Mexico the ability to develop career paths for NMSU-Grants minority-majority student base. Thirty-seven percent of NMSU-Grants students are Native American and thirty-three percent are Hispanic.

The EDD states that the initial efforts for film technician training at the Grants campus of NMSU have been successful. Continued support of this training would provide opportunities for new students to learn the trades and business of film production, and advance the skills of current students to fully prepare them for a career in the film industry. It would also increase New Mexico's crew base: the number of trained crew members directly corresponds to the number of productions New Mexico can accommodate.

GH/bb