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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/31/08

SPONSOR Gardner LAST UPDATED _____ HB 553

SHORT TITLE NM Tech College Year Program SB _____

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)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 553 appropriates \$50.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology for the “college year program at New Mexico Tech”.

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 NMIMT to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review. This request is not included in the Department’s executive funding recommendation for FY09. The college year program received \$50,000 non-recurring funding in FY08.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the HED,

The “College Year Program” mentioned in HB553 is formally known as the Freshman First-Year Experience (FFYE) at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMIMT).

The intent of HB553 is to provide resources directly related to programming for students in their first year at NMIMT, with the goal of ensuring that appropriate services and programming are available to serve these students. The funding goes toward the NMIMT Advising Resource Center.

According to the NMIMT website, students in the FFYE develop their academic success and life skills, attend social events geared toward the establishing of key relationships, and participate in a freshman seminar based on their major. Upperclassmen conduct these seminars and serve as peer facilitators.

Achieving the Dream (ATD) is a national policy initiative of the Lumina Foundation for Education to increase student success among low income, first generation students attending community colleges. The New Mexico Higher Education Department was awarded a state grant to coordinate policy to measure success of programs designed to help students succeed at five New Mexico community colleges. Achieving the Dream has identified the first-year experience as one student success strategy, which includes student success courses, orientation programs, learning communities, special advising programs, and other approaches similar to ones being implemented at NMT, a four-year institution.