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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE
LAST UPDATED

SPONSOR Nava **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE NMSU Science and Math Outreach Programs **SB** 144

ANALYST Escudero

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$450.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico State University - Science and Math
Outreach Programs (NMSU)
Public Education Department (PED)
Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 144 appropriates \$450,000 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University (NMSU) for expenditure in FY09 to pay for coordination and expansion of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) educational outreach programs. The requested funds will support the establishment and initial operation of a statewide STEM Success Center, to be located on the main campus of NMSU.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$450.0 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.

This request was submitted by NMSU to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review, but is not included in the Departments funding recommendation for FY09.

The HED's evaluation table of FY09 Research and Public Service Projects provided to the LFC classifies this project as a "supports state priorities" 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, p74.)

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

As stated by HED, according to NMSU, there are currently many successful STEM educational outreach initiatives at work in different locations throughout New Mexico and sponsored by various institutions. There are also government and private sector initiatives to promote success in STEM subjects. The purpose of SB144 is to establish a statewide STEM Success Center to coordinate and evaluate all existing STEM initiatives throughout the State of New Mexico.

According to NMSU- Math and Science Outreach Programs, the STEM Success Center will be a statewide partnering of long-term systemic efforts by the Governor's office, the Legislature, the Public Education Department, businesses, and LANL to improve technology, mathematics, and science education in New Mexico.

The Center will provide research on best practices and increase collaborative opportunities to strengthen the nation's future STEM workforce and bolster U.S. capacity for global competitiveness in science and engineering.

Committees will be formed with members of the advisory board, as well as management partners in order to accomplish our goals. Through our website, newsletters, and other communication avenues, all members will be informed. The Center's goals will include:

- Providing a networking organization that builds information on all STEM education efforts in the state by all stakeholders, gathering evidence-based outcomes, and identifying Best Practices in STEM and brings them to scale.
- Enlarge the pipeline by systematically collaborating and combining resources from all sectors of the state, including formal and informal education, partnerships with labs and businesses, and participation by all post-secondary institutions.
- Examine/increase the state's internal capacity to improve teaching and learning.
- Strengthen teachers' ability to engage students in STEM disciplines through summer institutes, distance education, business, national lab and school district partnerships that provide ongoing and sustained professional development.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

As stated by HED, the federal No Child Left Behind Act of 2001 requires science teachers to demonstrate that they are highly qualified either in a broad field science or individual fields of science. The STEM Success Center helps New Mexico school districts comply with this mandate by providing access to specialized professional development for teachers that emphasizes STEM learning for all New Mexico students.

In order for our children to succeed and become the next generation of scientists, engineers, and successful citizens, it is imperative that professional development opportunities that improve STEM content knowledge of teachers as well as modeling good, sound pedagogy are available.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

As stated by HED, the STEM Success Center will have a management team, an advisory board, and numerous management partnerships throughout the state. Committees will be formed with members of the advisory board as well as management partners. The center will work with economic development organizations around the state to advance the technologically capable workforce across New Mexico.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

According to NMSU, currently, there are many STEM educational outreach initiatives at work in various locations throughout the state, sponsored by various institutions. There are also government and private sector initiatives to promote success in STEM subjects. Unless these efforts are coordinated, and unless systemic and far-sighted collaboration among government, private sector and education takes place, low academic achievement and sustainable economic prosperity will not be possible for the majority of New Mexicans. STEM education targets underrepresented students, a majority in New Mexico, and within these populations lie the greatest potential for growth and sustainable prosperity for the future.

PME/bb