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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/08

SPONSOR McSorley LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE UNM Law School College Mentoring SB 337

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$300.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Related to HB 228

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 337 appropriates \$300.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico to fund college preparatory mentoring programs at the University of New Mexico School of Law for students in the sixth through twelfth grades in the Albuquerque public school system.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$300.0 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 not submitted by UNM to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review. The Department's funding recommendation for FY09 is a continuance of FY08 recurring funding in the amount of \$200,000 with no additional funding at this time.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The HED states:

The funding is for Los Companeros, a Latino-focused program. Los Companeros is a long-term initiative currently in its seventh year, aimed at improving retention and graduation rates for middle, high school, and college students. Often, students from diverse economic and cultural backgrounds do not have the opportunity to attain their full potential. The mission of Los Companeros, through the mentoring program, is to promote both academic and personal success among Hispanic middle school students through a culturally relevant mentoring program provided by university students. Funding from appropriation will be used to pay the salaries of university undergraduate students who are offering these essential mentoring services to middle and high school students within the Albuquerque Public School system.

The program works collaboratively with the University of New Mexico and Albuquerque Public Schools. Los Companeros has been able to secure space at seven local schools for the program. Three to four mentors work at each site with a cohort of students (15 students in the middle schools and 30 in the high schools) whom they interact with on a consistent basis. These interactions may occur before, during, or after school.

The students targeted for this program have graduated from Valley, Albuquerque, and West Mesa high schools. The grant was written specifically for those students. They are Hispanic students. Traditionally, those high schools have been underrepresented at the university.

The program offers its undergraduate mentors both leadership and professional development while working with middle and high school students. The mentors have opportunities to network professionally during the New Mexico State Legislative Session and at national conferences and seminars. Additionally they enjoy the benefits of flexible employment that is highly supportive of their own educational needs.

The PED states that the UNM School of Law has developed this mentoring program in conjunction with ENLACE (Engaging Latino Communities in Education) for Albuquerque Public Schools (APS) students grades 6-12. The purpose is to spark student interest in college work in the areas of medicine, law and engineering. The program looks at a diverse population of students and not just at-risk students. A major component of this program is that all students will have a college mentor. The mentors are of a similar background to the students in order to build upon experiences and increase the students' self esteem. The mentor meets with their student throughout the school year. During the summer all students are taken to UNM for a two-week campus experience in which they are exposed to coursework, work experience in the professional schools and to engage in team building activities.

RELATIONSHIP

Senate Bill 337 is related to HB 228 which appropriates the same amount for the same purpose but limits the program to students in grades eight through twelve.

GH/bb