

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** HB 224

**50th Legislature, 1st Session, 2011**

**Tracking Number:** .184430.1

**Short Title:** NMSU Approp for County Education Initiative

**Sponsor(s):** Representative Andy Nuñez and Others

**Analyst:** James Ball

**Date:** February 10, 2011

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**Bill Summary:**

HB 224 makes an appropriation to implement the Doña Ana County Regional Educational Initiative (DACREI).

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$100,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents at New Mexico State University (NMSU) for Doña Ana Community College (DACC) for FY 12.

Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

**Fiscal Issues:**

The analysis of HB 224 by the Higher Education Department (HED) indicates that this request was not submitted by NMSU to the department for review. HED also states that, due to the current economic conditions in New Mexico, not all institutions submitted funding requests for review.

**Substantive Issues:**

According to the analysis of HB 224 by NMSU, the appropriation will be used by DACC to support the DACREI, also known as The Bridge Program. The Bridge Program is an educational initiative driven by the local business community to develop the local work force and reduce the high school dropout rate. A nonprofit board of directors has been formed to oversee the project which includes the coordination of educational partners such as the Las Cruces, Gadsden, and Hatch school districts, NMSU, and DACC. A major goal of The Bridge Program is to support the development early college high schools in Doña Ana County.

**Background:**

HED's analysis of HB 224 indicates that the DACREI was a result of a task force commissioned in 2007 to develop solutions and recommendations to prepare all Doña Ana graduating high school students to compete in a global work force. The group has been instrumental in its

leadership and proactive guidance of community discussions regarding school attendance rates and the preparation of a well-qualified work force for a stronger economic future for Doña Ana County. DACREI has created collaborations between public and private sectors including businesses, nonprofits, and both secondary and postsecondary educational institutions to support educational excellence and optimize the county's work force.

**Related Bills:**

None as of February 10, 2011.