

As the university allocates this appropriation among many student services programs, the LFC does not have a record of the AISS' specific funding. LFC staff understands that, should SB337 be enacted, the increase in funding would be administered like other Minority Student Services Program funding and by the AISS.

A university representative noted that the \$275 thousand increase would support hiring student advisors.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The AISS program, primarily serving the American Indian, Native Hawaiian, Alaska Native (American Indian) population on UNM's main campus, is the university's primary student support center for Native students. As such, the program focuses on recruiting and retaining American Indian students by

- Sponsoring the American Indian Summer Bridge Program that provides first-year native students with a four-week, residential program that includes both academic and social experiences to help the transition from high school to college.
- Offering the Sidekicks Mentorship Program that provides incoming students with upperclassmen mentors, where both participate in leadership development seminars; academic, scholarship, and financial aid advisement; community service; study group and tutoring sessions; and community networking with tribal leaders and communities.
- Participating in New Mexico College Days to recruit students from neighboring states and native communities.

The program also works with tribal leaders, tribal educators, and high school counselors on strengthening networks for students and others to be successful at UNM.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

Additional funding would help the AISS provide additional services to students. The program submits performance reports to the HED as part of its annual budget submission packet.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

This bill duplicates a provision in the General Appropriation Act, as one of the university's programs within the Minority Student Services Program.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

The state will continue to support Native American intervention and retention efforts at existing general fund levels.

THT/bm