

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** SB 207

**52nd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2016**

**Tracking Number:** .203204.1

**Short Title:** ENMU STEM-H Student Success Center

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Stuart Ingle

**Analyst:** Christina McCorquodale

**Date:** February 3, 2016

---

**Bill Summary:**

SB 207 appropriates \$180,000 from the General Fund to the board of regents of Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU) for expenditure in FY17 to establish a science, technology, engineering, mathematics, and health student success center to increase minority students' interest, preparation, and success in STEM-H related fields.

**Fiscal Impact:**

The bill appropriates \$180,000 from the General Fund to the board of regents of ENMU for expenditure in FY17. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY17 shall revert to the General Fund.

**Substantive Issues:**

The US Bureau of Labor Statistics indicated employment in STEM fields is projected to grow to more than nine million jobs between 2012 and 2022. Many STEM occupations require a bachelor's degree and more technical and advanced jobs require a master's or doctoral degree.

Hispanic students represent 60 percent of the total student population in New Mexico. However, according to a report from the US Department of Education, Hispanics score lower than national averages on math and science achievement tests. Hispanics are underrepresented in undergraduate and graduate STEM programs and are not sufficiently exposed to STEM subjects in grades kindergarten through 12.

According to a report commissioned by the National Action Council for Minorities in Engineering, the underrepresentation of African-Americans in engineering begins in the postsecondary education level. The STEM fields continue to attract low percentages of African-Americans. In 2010, the share of African-American students enrolled in engineering programs remained at 5.0 percent, even with new freshman applications.

The Higher Education Department states that, during the FY16 budget review process, ENMU staff described challenges their students encountered in STEM-related courses. Some of the challenges included lack of sufficient preparation to enter STEM-H programs through mentorships demonstrating successful undergraduate completion and graduate school preparation.

According to ENMU, achieving a degree in STEM-H fields is very challenging and the proposed center that creates interest at the high school level, offers peer to peer mentoring during the students' college years, and exposure to research opportunities tailored to their needs will increase the success in STEM-related fields.

**Related Bills:**

HB 245 *Pre-College Minority Student Stem Programs*