

# FACT SHEET – KNOWLES SCHOLARSHIP

## PURPOSE

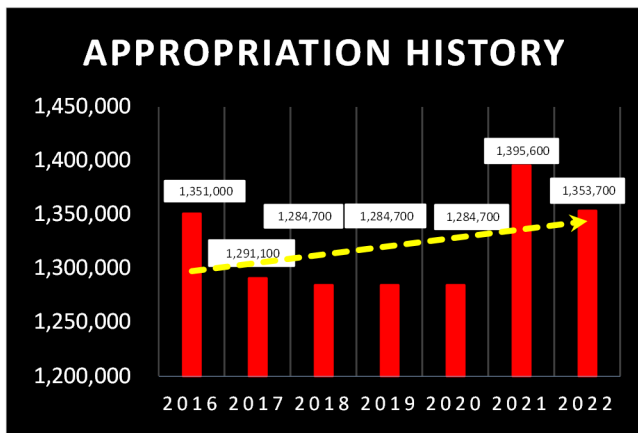
NMMI is requesting an additional \$410,000 to increase the General Richard T. Knowles Legislator Scholarship program appropriation to a total of **\$1,760,000**.

## HISTORY

In 1989 the New Mexico Legislature enacted NMSA 21-12-11 which states “the purpose of this program is to increase the number of New Mexico residents attending the New Mexico Military Institute and to increase the opportunity for promising young people who might not otherwise have the opportunity to participate in a military education and environment.”

## OPPORTUNITY

Each of New Mexico’s 112 Legislators may nominate a student from their district for scholarship consideration to the Institute. The program can contribute up to a maximum of 448 scholarship awards for New Mexico Military Institute cadets. The scholarships fund an average of 200 eligible New Mexico cadets each year. If a Legislator has no applicant from his or her district, that Senator or Representative may choose to nominate an applicant from a Senate or Representative district contiguous to his or her own, thus maintaining geographical diversity in the corps of cadets while affording a greater opportunity for more New Mexicans to receive a scholarship. In the event no applicant is available by July 1 of each year from either the Legislator’s district or a contiguous district, the scholarship may be awarded to any of the qualified nominees from any state legislative district. Each eligible nominee selected will receive a scholarship to help offset the cost of attendance at the New Mexico Military Institute.



## THE PROBLEM

The appropriation decreased by 3% from the prior fiscal year. This funding has fluctuated since it was fully funded by Legislature in 2015. The cost of living has inversely increased over this same timeframe. NMMI’s goal is to fund a minimum of 50% of a cadet’s cost of attendance, which ranges from \$13,191 to \$16,166.

The cost of living in fees such as, housing, meals, laptop and uniforms for New Mexico Military Institute cadets has increased continually. In order to continue to award 50% of the cost of attendance, NMMI is requesting an increase in the General Richard T. Knowles Legislator Scholarship program appropriation. The scholarship may be automatically renewed for a total of 4 years if the cadet maintains the minimum established criteria.

## WHAT WILL IT TAKE

NMMI estimates \$1,760,000 is needed to continue to honor the intent of the program. This is a \$410,000 increase from the current appropriation.

## EXPECTED OUTCOME

The Legislative Scholarship provides a tremendous educational opportunity for New Mexico students. For the majority of students that are offered this scholarship, this award is the determining factor as to whether or not they will choose to attend the Institute, and as such this scholarship has a great impact on the Institute. Without the ability to provide this funding, NMMI would lose a great number of young scholars from throughout the state, which would affect the school, as well as the region, negatively.

## PROPOSED LEGISLATIVE LANGUAGE

\$1,760,000 to New Mexico Military Institute’s Board of Regents for Knowles Scholarships at the New Mexico Military Institute.

