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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/26/06

SPONSOR Moore LAST UPDATED _____ HB 73

SHORT TITLE Mesalands Community College Programs SB _____

ANALYST Earp

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$335.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From
Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 73 appropriates \$335,000 from the general fund to Mesalands Community College (MCC) to support the college's intercollegiate athletic program, archaeological programs and dinosaur museum.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The bill provides \$200,000 for intercollegiate athletic programs \$135,000 for the college's archaeological programs and the dinosaur museum. These appropriations would be recurring expenses to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

MCC submitted requests for these programs to the Higher Education Department for review. However, HED has not included these programs in its fiscal year 2007 funding recommendations.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The appropriations proposed in this bill would augment funding for existing program at MCC. No significant additional administrative impact is anticipated.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Information provided by HED indicates that a rodeo team was introduced as Mesalands' first intercollegiate sport in the fall semester of 1998. The college is a member of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association and competes in the southwest region, which includes Eastern New Mexico and West Texas. The college team is co-ed and competes in rodeos in the fall and spring. Students must meet national eligibility guidelines and be enrolled full-time in order to participate in the college rodeos throughout the region. The top athletes from the region compete in the College National Finals Rodeo in June each year.

MCC's Dinosaur Museum opened in the spring of 2000. The facility houses approximately 10,000 square feet of exhibit space, a spacious, well-equipped paleontology/geology laboratory, a classroom, offices, and a retail store. Classes for their natural science degree programs, with an emphasis in paleontology and geology, are held there, and all fossils found on course field trips are sorted and prepped in the lab.

Field research conducted by MCC's natural sciences classes has already unearthed three previously unknown life species in Quay County, home of the college. Every summer, one-week field courses are offered to the public.

DE/mt