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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1-25-06

SPONSOR Madalena LAST UPDATED _____ HB 99

SHORT TITLE NMSU American Indian Program SB _____

ANALYST Dearing

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$62.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 103

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

Public Education Department (PED)

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 99 appropriates \$62,000 from the general fund to the New Mexico State University Board of Regents (NMSU) for the purpose of hiring an American Indian Program recruiter in order to recruit students to increase the number of Native students attending the university in fiscal year 2007.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$62,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) has recommended an appropriation of \$371,400 for Indian Resources Development in fiscal year 2007. This bill's appropriation seeks similar funding in

addition to the aforementioned LFC recommendation of \$371,400. This appropriation is not listed as a New Mexico State University Board of Regents' approved legislative priorities for the 2007 fiscal year.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

NMSU is a land-grant institution located in southern New Mexico. Because of its location, NMSU finds it difficult to recruit Native American students. Currently, there are approximately five hundred Native American students enrolled at NMSU who make up three percent (3%) of the total student population. NMSU's goal is to increase the number of Native students attending the university.

The NMSU American Indian Program (AIP) does not currently have a recruiter. Therefore, recruitment and outreach efforts to the twenty-two New Mexico Indian Tribes, Nations and Pueblos are conducted by the AIP staff. The appropriation would fund a recruiter position specifically assigned to AIP. The recruiter would be charged with outreach efforts, particularly to the remote tribal communities such as NM's Navajo Nation Chapters.

New Mexico is home to more than 147,000 Indian citizens. The state also boasts the largest number of American Indian land-based nations. Census data reports that Native Americans account for 10% of the state's population.

Current data for Native American students at NMSU branches:

Alamogordo	67 students
Carlsbad	11 students
Dona Ana	142 students
Grants	264 students
Main	469 students

The goal of the American Indian Program at NMSU is to provide services designed to enable more American Indian students to successfully achieve their post-secondary goals. Enrollment of Native American students at NMSU comprises approximately 3% of the student body population. Native American student enrollment at NMSU does not accurately reflect New Mexico's Native American population. A recruiter for American Indians at NMSU will be responsible for traveling the state to conduct recruitment outreach to American Indian communities. There are currently three staff positions in the American Indian program, however, these positions are tasked with responsibilities in addition to the recruiting of American Indian students. NMSU is geographically removed from the larger Navajo reservation, Apache reservations, and the Pueblo nations of central and northern New Mexico. Recruiting outreach programs can have a dramatic effect on the enrollment of this historically underrepresented group.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

A report compiled by the New Mexico Higher Education Department regarding the recruitment and retention of Native American and Hispanic students documented the achievement gap between higher education enrollment of American Indian students and the state's population. In addition, colleges and universities, as well as individual tribal higher education departments, reported that one-to-one contact, through outreach programs, for recruitment and retention is im-

portant to the success of American Indian students.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The American Indian Program at NMSU will be responsible for the oversight of a recruiter for American Indian students.

Though not indicated in HB99, the recruiter position (1 FTE) may be a permanent position. It is unknown how the costs for a recruiter position will be maintained in future years.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, OR RELATION

HB103 is requesting an appropriation from the General Fund in the amount of \$52,000 for a counselor for the American Indian Program at NMSU. The two positions as requested in HB99 and HB 103, for a recruiter and a counselor respectively, are attempts to close the enrollment gap of American Indian students at NMSU.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

Without the addition of an AIP recruiter, the AIP regular staff will have to continue their out-reach and recruitment efforts in addition to their normal job responsibilities. Additionally, it may be logistically difficult for NMSU recruiting staff to visit more distant tribal communities, thereby negatively impacting the University's goal of increasing the number of Native American students, as well as diminishing the number of future college degree attaining individuals within the State's Native American population.

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