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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/01/06

SPONSOR Lujan, B LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB 621

SHORT TITLE Center for Study of Diverse Populations SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Earp

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$650.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 621 appropriates \$650,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) for the Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations (CESDP) to provide technical assistance and training for schools and school districts.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$650,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Information provided by NMHU indicates that the requested funding would be used to employ seven professional staff members and an administrative assistant. These personnel would implement the proposed educational training and technical assistance program to schools and school districts. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

This appropriation would augment a recurring line-item appropriation for CESDP which is contained in the annual General Appropriation Act. For fiscal year 2006, the Center received an appropriation of \$210,100.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

This proposal was not included among the special program funding requests submitted by NMHU to the Higher Education Department (HED) for review. Consequently, this proposal has not been included in the HED fiscal year 2007 funding recommendations to the Legislature.

**ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

NMHU currently provides administrative support for the Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations. No significant additional administrative impact is anticipated if this legislation is adopted.

**OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

NMHU reports that the Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations (CESDP) was established by the New Mexico State Legislature in 1993 in order to address the unique and diverse educational needs of the state. During the past 10 years, CESDP has developed over 90 separate projects that have been funded totaling \$31,500,000. More specifically, over 45 separate projects have been funded by the New Mexico Public Education Department totaling almost \$7.5 million.

NMHU reports that the US Department of Education ended the delivery of training and technical assistance to school districts and tribal education agencies in October of 2005. This was replaced by a new federal system of technical assistance delivery directed primarily at state departments of education. This change had the greatest impact on small rural and diverse states like New Mexico who do not have the level of fiscal resources to maintain effective programs of training and professional development.

NMHU states that the CESDP is fully poised to fill the void through the delivery of high quality training and technical assistance activities to local school districts, tribes and pueblos statewide with the resource support of the New Mexico State Legislature. Under HB 621, the CESDP intends to provide educational training and technical assistance to schools and school districts statewide with an emphasis on Northern New Mexico. The training will be aligned with New Mexico's School Improvement Framework and will provide targeted assistance to low performing schools and districts struggling to meet the mandates of the federal No Child Left Behind Act. All efforts will be targeted at improving teacher and administrator practice in an attempt to help lower the achievement gap in New Mexico.

DKE/nt