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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/9/06

SPONSOR Vigil LAST UPDATED _____ HB 773

SHORT TITLE Luna Community College Nursing Program SB _____

ANALYST Earp

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$20.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Department of Health (DOH)
 Health Policy Commission (HPC)
 Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 773 appropriates \$20,000 from the General Fund to the Higher Education Department (HED) to provide funding for the student nursing program at Luna Community College (LCC) to enable student nurses to travel to hospitals throughout the state for the observation of hospital practices.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$20,000 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.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This request was not on the list of priority projects submitted by LCC to the Higher Education

Department (HED) for review and was not included in the department's funding recommendation for fiscal year 2007.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

HED would receive the appropriation and then transfer it to LCC which would be responsible for the administering the nursing student travel program. See Technical Issues below.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

This appropriation could be made directly to LCC, which would eliminate the necessity of routing the funds through HED.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HED reports that LCC offers an Associate of Applied Science Degree program, with an exit option for Practical Nursing after completion of the first year of nursing. The nursing department prepares and trains nurses to provide culturally competent, community-based entry level nursing care. The nursing program is approved by the New Mexico Board of Nursing.

First level nursing students complete their clinical experiences locally at the regional hospital or the New Mexico State Hospital in Las Vegas. Second level students are required to get their clinical experience in specialty areas that are not available in Las Vegas and, therefore, must travel to Albuquerque and Santa Fe for their clinical. Clinical experiences often require a student to work the night shift in hospitals and work 10-12 hour shifts at hospitals in Albuquerque, Santa Fe and Taos. This proposal will impact 63 first level students and 43 second level students attending the LCC Nursing Program. The funds will be used to support students to pay their travel and lodging expenses when their clinical experiences require them to travel outside of Las Vegas. The Nursing Program director coordinates the clinical experiences for the students and pairs them up to share a hotel room to cut travel expenses for the students.

POSSIBLE QUESTIONS

How do other institutions, especially those in smaller communities, deal with the issue of travel relating to required clinical experiences?

DKE/mt