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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/24/08

SPONSOR Vigil LAST UPDATED _____ HB 202

SHORT TITLE NM Highlands Center For Diverse Population SB _____

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$402.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 202 appropriates \$402.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University to fund the Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$402.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2009 shall revert to the general fund.

The HED states that a request was submitted by NMHU in the amount of \$402,000 to the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED) for review. The request is an increase of \$171,100 to the current recurring funding. The Department's executive funding recommendation for FY09 is a continuance of FY08 recurring funding in the amount of \$230,900 with no additional funding at this time.

The HED's evaluation table of FY09 Research and Public Service Projects provided to the LFC classifies this project as a "would not oppose if funding available" project. Reasons for this classification decision are not provided. (LFC Report 07-20, Higher Education Department Review of Selected Research and Public Service Projects, January 12, 2008, Table 4, p73.)

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The HED states:

Center for Education and Study of Diverse Populations (CESDP) provides direct technical assistance, products, publications, research-based tools/models, and professional development to students, parents, schools, districts, and educational organizations, and frequent collaboration with the New Mexico Public Education Department (PED), institutions of higher education, and regional education centers to achieve state goals, build capacity, and enhance resources.

CESDP's goals are to promote knowledge, understanding, and change through research-based strategies, tools, and models shown to be effective with New Mexico's population of learners. The Center has developed approaches that promote systemic change, successfully leveraging public and private appropriations to engage in numerous activities by providing leadership to enhance collaboration with the state. In FY09, CESDP will:

- Provide educational technical assistance to a minimum of 25 schools statewide;
- Distribute at least 1,000 K-8 or 9-12 New Mexico Content Standards and Benchmarks Guides to New Mexico schools;
- Implement the 17th Annual Back-to-School Family Institute for student leaders, parents/community members, and educators statewide;
- Distribute at least 200 copies of the Working Together: School-Family-Community Partnerships Toolkit to schools and community based organizations statewide; and
- Implement one major summer institute for educators and para-educators on Sheltered Instruction Best Practices for English Language Learners

CESDP continues to refine several research-based models, including High Quality Sheltered Instruction, Culturally Proficient Teaching, ENLACE for college preparation, Action Research for Teachers, and Data Summits for Decision Making to assist struggling schools and districts with systemic change. These learning experiences contribute to an overall understanding and focus on student needs and instruction and school programs to meet those needs, as well as building structures, learning communities, and monitoring systems to ensure progress towards prioritized goals.

NMHU notes that the appropriation is consistent with the University Strategic plan and assists with the university mission of integrating education, research, public service, and economic development.

GH/mt