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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/31/08

SPONSOR Griego LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE Luna College Vocational Classes In Pecos SB 501

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$200.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Luna Community College (LCC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 501 appropriates \$200.0 from the general fund to the Higher Education Department for Luna Community College to establish technical and vocational training classes in Pecos.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$200.0 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 this request was not submitted to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review and is not included in the Department's legislative recommendation for FY09.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

LCC states:

The vocational training programs have been established at Luna Community College main campus. However, it is requested by the Pecos community that these programs extend to their community due to high demand and inconvenience of travel from Pecos to the Luna Community College main campus. Since Pecos is located in Luna Community College's service area and this area is high poverty, travel to the main campus is a financial burden for interested students from Pecos.

Funding will be utilized for state-of-the-art equipment for vocational classrooms to enhance student knowledge and skills. Additionally, funding will be used for training for students and staff in the proper and safe use of equipment. It is Luna Community College's goal to enroll approximately 50 students in the vocational training programs which will be instructed by 5 qualified staff members.

It is Luna Community College's goal to ensure that the program participants maintain at least a 2.5 GPA with the intent to acquire a certificate or degree in the specific programs. Additionally, these programs will be available to community members as well as Dual Credit students from Pecos Independent Schools.

According to the HED, this initiative proposes to provide technical and vocational training classes to students in Pecos. According to the Director of Vocational Education Daniel Romero, current program offerings include Automotive Collision Repair Technology, Automotive Technology, Building Technology, Cosmetology, Culinary Arts, Furniture and Cabinet Making, and Welding Technology. By partnering with Pecos High School, LCC provides non traditional students opportunities for occupations in the trades.

GH/nt