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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Nava **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/05/11
LAST UPDATED _____ **HB** _____

SHORT TITLE NM Tech Summer Science Program **SB** 139

ANALYST Aguilar

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY11	FY12		
	\$50.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 139 appropriates \$50 thousand from the general fund to the regents of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology for the purpose of supporting the Summer Science Program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$50 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2012 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The Summer Science Program fee of \$3,950 includes tuition, room and board, local transportation, and supplies. Total program costs total \$6,200 per student, the difference being subsidized from other sources.

Program enrollment is limited to approximately 36 students from around the world with New Mexico students eligible to apply for a waiver of the fee which is covered by this appropriation. The \$50 thousand appropriation covers approximately eight New Mexico students ages 15-18 to

attend the program. Thirty-six students from around the world attend. The six-week program encompasses college level lectures, research activities, tours of research sites such as NMIMT's Energetic Materials Research and Testing Center, the Very Large Array, and the Trinity Site.

The curriculum is organized around a central research project where students obtain in-depth, hands-on experience with advanced topics in the physical sciences, mathematics, and computer science through a combination of lectures, guest speakers, field trips, and research work.

Students perform the entire research project from start to finish: observations, measurements, and calculations. Students use both classic astrophotography and modern digital imaging, allowing them to understand the research in depth.

At the end of six weeks, each student will have acquired many hours of experience with the collection, measurement, analysis, interpretation, and presentation of scientific data. Each team's observations will be submitted to the Minor Planet Center at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, of which the Summer Science Program is an accredited observing affiliate.

HJA/svb