

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE  
BILL ANALYSIS**

**Bill Number:** SB 31

**52nd Legislature, 1st Session, 2015**

**Tracking Number:** .197484.1

**Short Title:** UNM Civic Leadership & Legislative Program

**Sponsor(s):** Senator Michael Padilla

**Analyst:** James Ball

**Date:** January 27, 2015

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**Bill Summary:**

SB 31 makes an appropriation to support a civic leadership and legislative processes training program for Hispanic high school students to be offered by the Division of Student Services (DSS) at the University of New Mexico (UNM).

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$250,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of UNM for expenditure in FY 16. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund.

**Substantive Issues:**

The analysis by UNM of an identical bill in 2014 cites the importance of leadership and legislative training for first-generation high school graduating students and low-income and minority, specifically Hispanic, students. The DSS will work with schools across the state to identify and recruit students to participate in a year-round program to promote leadership skills and understanding of the legislative process. Students will participate in academic programming, research, workshops, career planning, a summer academy, and community engagement.

UNM/DSS noted last year that the program would develop partnerships with other programs serving the same target population, providing enhanced services to Hispanic participants. These programs include:

- the College Enrichment & Outreach Program;
- Community Engagement Center;
- Associate Vice President of UNM; and
- the UNM Office of Student Affairs.

**Background:**

According to UNM's analysis in 2014, research shows that a curriculum that continually challenges and engages traditionally underrepresented students has produced positive results in gains in academic standards. UNM cites this research as evidence that outreach programs such as civic and leadership programming will better prepare high school students to enter higher education and the workforce with necessary technical, critical thinking, teamwork, work ethic, and professional and time-management skills.

**Committee Referrals:**

SEC/SFC

**Related Bills:**

None as of January 27, 2015