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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Ingle ORIGINAL DATE 2/5/16
 LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE ENMU STEM-H Student Success Center SB 207

ANALYST Dulany

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	\$180.0	Recurring	General Fund (See "Technical Issues")

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU)
 Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 207 appropriates \$180 thousand to ENMU for expenditure in FY17 to establish a science, technology, engineering, math, and health (STEMH) student success center to increase minority students' interest in STEMH fields.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$180 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY17 shall revert to the general fund.

ENMU indicates growth in attendance through this program will increase tuition and fee revenue at the university, although no estimate is given.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to ENMU, the STEMH Student Success Center will seek to expose high school students to STEMH fields with the goal of attracting these college-bound students into degrees in STEMH fields. Upon entering college, according to ENMU, students will be placed in a community of learners and will be mentored by students who are also majoring in STEMH fields. During the completion of their college programs, the students will also be provided with research opportunities tied to their particular field of study.

According to HED, during the FY16 budget review process ENMU staff described challenges their students encountered, particularly STEMH students. The challenges ranged from lack of sufficient preparation to enter STEMH programs to few mentors and models demonstrating successful undergraduate program completion and graduate school preparation. In addition, ENMU's student body includes a large percentage of students from minority backgrounds (43 percent of students enrolled in the fall 2014 semester). ENMU staff noted that, while they generally have stronger academic skills, STEMH students still face a number of hurdles including feeling overwhelmed in some classes, under-preparation for the pace or depth of scientific or mathematical content, or uncertainty in their skills or drive to succeed in demanding courses.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

If SB 207 is enacted, ENMU would be encouraged to develop performance measures to track the institution's progress toward increasing number of minority STEMH graduates.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

SB 207 does not specify from which fund \$180 thousand is appropriated.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

HED cites the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics website, which indicates employment in occupations related to STEM are projected to grow to more than 9 million between 2012 and 2022 -- an increase of about 1 million jobs over 2012 employment levels.

TD/jle/jo