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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Trujillo, CH/Maestas/
Martinez, J ORIGINAL DATE 2/14/19 HB 537
LAST UPDATED _____ SB _____

SHORT TITLE UNM El Centro de la Raza SB _____

ANALYST Hawker

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation					Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20	FY21	FY22	FY23		
	\$259.0				Recurring	General Fund

Parenthesis () indicate expenditure decreases

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

University of New Mexico (UNM)
Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 537 appropriates \$259 thousand to the University of New Mexico to provide funding for El Centro de la Raza.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$259.0 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund.

Higher education institutions in New Mexico do not revert unexpended funding back to the state's general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Since its inception in 1969, El Centro de la Raza has provided support services and academic programs for Hispanic/Latino students at UNM so they may graduate and/or move onto professional careers. Many of the students El Centro serves fall under the categories of "at risk" and underrepresented students. Understanding the difficulties that Hispanic/Latino students experience navigating through the university system and the need to advocate and serve this growing population, El Centro de la Raza focuses its programmatic areas and services to meet the critical needs of Hispanic/Latino students and their families.

In FY 18, 94 percent of UNM students served at El Centro de la Raza either graduated or were retained -- returning to UNM in the fall semester.

El Centro de la Raza intends to:

- Increase the number of students and family members who are aware of access and support to pursue higher education opportunities. In FY 18 14,974 students and family were reached by El Centro de la Raza.
- Increase the number of students that receive financial support via scholarships and on-campus employment opportunities. In FY 18, scholarships or student employment opportunities were provided to 199 students.
- Increase statewide impact by preparing and supporting students at UNM from throughout New Mexico. In FY 18 students being served by El Centro de la Raza were from 25 different New Mexico counties. The eight counties not represented, they are among the nine least populous counties in the state.

This request was submitted to HED for possible incorporation into the HED higher education funding recommendation. HED has a formal process for reviewing earmarked budget requests for higher education institutions when developing the HED funding recommendation.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

By the year 2050 it is projected 1 in 3 people who reside in the United States will be Hispanic/Latino. In New Mexico Hispanic/Latino comprise 48 percent of the population. Only a little over 15 percent attain a college degree. The percentage is smaller in graduate and professional degrees. According to UNM, programs and services that are tailored for the Hispanic/Latino population need to correlate with the needs of industry and local communities to ensure the population is competitive in various fields, especially STEMH.

VKH/gb