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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/05/21

SPONSOR Lopez LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Chicano Studies Department SB 228

ANALYST Hitzman

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY21	FY22		
	\$300.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

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

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

SB 228 appropriates \$300 thousand from the general fund to the board of regents of the University of New Mexico for the purpose of building a higher education pipeline and expanding community-engaged curriculum and public-facing high school and community college programming within the Chicano and Chicana studies (CCS) department. The bill will also allow for development of online curriculum centered on Latina and Latino history and culture.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$300 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY22 shall revert to the general fund.

According to HED, “the key objectives of the department include increasing underrepresented undergraduate and graduate enrollments at UNM and increasing the number of degree earners who have cross cultural competency.” The program would provide for online curriculum and public programming via a free online format and would support the mission of CCS at the

university.

According to UNM, the appropriation contained in this bill will also support the creation of internships for enrolled UNM and community college campus students, staff support for CCS, and compensation for high school teachers' participation in developing the online materials. UNM also estimates that the program supported in this bill will boost tuition and enrollment rates for the university, however they did not provide any financial estimates of this impact.

HED notes that, while the appropriation contained in this bill is reverting to the general fund, appropriations to New Mexico public postsecondary institutions typically do not revert. HED also notes that the Chicano and Chicana Studies department did not submit a funding request for this initiative, but did request College Internships and Career Pathway funds for \$94 thousand, \$91 thousand of which was recommended by the Executive for FY22 in the General Appropriation Act. If passed, the \$300 thousand appropriation within this bill may potentially duplicate an appropriation recommended within the GAA.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Given that the appropriation in this bill sets up a new curriculum program for Chicano and Chicana studies at UNM, there is a potential need for continued appropriations in order to support the program initiatives in future years, especially if the programming is being provided to the public and other students free of charge. However, according to HED, if needed, "future recurring funds may be requested through the Research and Public Service Project (RPSP) process" which would limit the need for future general fund appropriations to this program.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

Creating an online curriculum for the Chicano and Chicana studies department can provide opportunities for continuing education for students earning Associate's degrees in Chicano and Chicana studies at local community colleges and other young people interested in the programming. According to UNM, the CCS program has graduated over 1200 majors and minors since the program's inception, and UNM estimates that 500 students are currently being served through the high school dual enrollment program, showing continued growth within CCS. The university expects to add a Master's degree for CCS to its current online degree programs as an effort to improve educational outcomes and cultural and linguistic competence.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

UNM reports that existing staff will be assuming responsibilities associated with supervising the new initiatives, though there may be a need to hire project management staff to oversee daily operations within the department. The board of regents of UNM would be the recipient of the funds and would be the administrator for the project.

JH/al/rl