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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/01/13

SPONSOR Garcia, M.H. LAST UPDATED _____ HB 318

SHORT TITLE Dona Ana Regional Educational Initiative SB _____

ANALYST Roberts

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Public Education Department (PED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 318 appropriates \$100 thousand dollars from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for the Doña Ana community college to implement the Doña Ana County Regional Educational Initiative.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand dollars contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2014 shall revert to the general fund.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The PED cites that the appropriation will be used by the community college to support the Doña Ana county regional education initiative, also known as The Bridge Program. The Bridge program is an educational initiative driven by the local business community to develop the local workforce and reduce the high school drop-out rate. The program has helped boost Doña Ana County's graduation rate by more than 20 percent. Two key goals of the program are to: 1)

achieve the highest high school graduation rate in New Mexico by 2016, and 2) optimize career and technical education opportunities for students to satisfy the needs of business in Doña Ana County.

The HED adds:

As part of the program, students learn a skill while they are in high school so they graduate with a diploma and a certificate to work in a specific field while promoting the advancement of dual credit courses to help high school students make a seamless transition through graduation and into college. To date, the Bridge Program at the Arrowhead Park Early College High School has not experienced a single dropout.

The program's board of directors works to coordinate the efforts of the business community with educational partners, including the Las Cruces, Gadsden and Hatch Public Schools and NMSU main campus and the community college.

The Bridge program is credited with developing the state's first early college high school at NMSU-Doña Ana Community College and has facilitated collaboration between public and private sectors to support education and build individual workforce skills.

The executive director of the Bridge program indicates that the program support provides for five key areas: 1) advancing early college high school, 2) advancing dual credit for students which expands educational opportunities, 3) quantifies best practices for expanding the system, 4) provides seamless pathways for students, reducing the drop-out rate for all students, and 5) expands opportunities for outreach toward mentoring within the business community.

Since the Bridge program began its cross-sector, "collective impact" work, the graduation rates in Doña Ana County have risen from 51 percent in 2007 to 71 percent in 2011. The next step in optimizing students' employability is still underway.

The Bridge is not directly funded by the State. It does receive some financial support from its public sector educational partners, the Las Cruces Public Schools and NMSU- Doña Ana. However, HED is not aware of the level of each of these funding sources.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The PED cites that this bill leverages PED's strategic lever number one: Smarter Return on New Mexico's Investment as it aligns proven strategies for student success with expenditures in education. Strategic lever number five: Effective Options for Parents is also leveraged as it provides an alternative learning environment to the comprehensive high school.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The Board of Regents at New Mexico State University would be responsible for administering the funds to the Doña Ana Community College to implement the Dona Ana County Regional Educational Initiative.

MIR/bm