

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: HB 316

52nd Legislature, 2nd Session, 2016

Tracking Number: .203619.1

Short Title: Center for Educational Innovation

Sponsor(s): Representative Don L. Tripp

Analyst: Christina McCorquodale

Date: February 8, 2016

Bill Summary:

HB 316 appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund to the board of regents of New Mexico State University (NMSU) for expenditure in FY17. The appropriation is for start-up costs at the Center for Educational Innovation, which is a collaboration between NMSU, Doña Ana Community College, Hatch Valley Schools, Gadsden Independent Schools, and Las Cruces Public Schools. This bill will allow public school and public postsecondary students in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, medicine, or allied health fields to learn and innovate in areas of computer coding, animation design, and three-dimensional imaging, particularly areas that benefit medical research and simulation training platforms.

Fiscal Impact:

The bill appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund to the board of regents of NMSU for expenditure in FY17. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY17 shall revert to the General Fund.

Substantive Issues:

The bill indicates the appropriation is for start-up costs for an educational innovation facility yet it does not indicate a plan for sustaining the technology that is purchased.

In 2010, the US Department of Education claimed that by 2020, the largest growth for employment in the US economy will be in STEM-H related fields, yet the number of US students prepared or motivated to pursue careers in these fields is low, especially when compared to students in other countries. Given the quantity and quality of US students poised to advance through the STEM pathway, educators, policymakers, and business leaders, have been reexamining the steps required to boost students' pursuit of and persistence in these fields over an individual's lifetime.

Related Bills:

HB 245 *Pre-College Minority Student STEM Programs*
SB 207 *ENMU STEM-H Student Success Center*