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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Tripp ORIGINAL DATE 2/8/16
LAST UPDATED _____ HB 316

SHORT TITLE Center for Educational Innovation SB _____

ANALYST Dulany

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY16	FY17		
	\$250.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act; Section 4J; New Mexico State University; Research and Public Service Projects; Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics Alliance for Minority Participation.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Public Education Department (PED)

New Mexico State University (NMSU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 316 appropriates \$250 thousand from the general fund to NMSU for expenditure in FY17 to pay for start-up costs for a center for educational innovation, which is to be a collaboration among NMSU; Dona Ana Community College; and Hatch Valley, Gadsden Independent, and Las Cruces public school districts. The collaboration is to allow public school and public postsecondary students in science, technology, engineering, mathematics, medicine, or allied health to both learn and innovate in areas such as computer coding and animation design and three-dimensional imaging, particularly as those areas benefit medical research and virtual reality simulation training platforms for physicians and other medical specialties.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

HB 316 specifies the appropriation is for start-up costs but is scored recurring because it will create an expectation that it will continue in future years. Although the appropriation contained in this bill is a nonrecurring expense to the general fund, NMSU and other schools involved in the center are likely to incur recurring expenses for continued operation of the center for educational innovation. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY17 shall revert to the general fund.

The General Appropriation Act of 2016, as substituted by House Appropriations and Finance Committee and passed by the House of Representatives, includes \$328.2 thousand in general fund support to NMSU for the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics alliance for minority participation program. It is important to note, however, that this appropriation does not specifically target computer coding, animation design, and three-dimensional imaging as HB 316 does.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

As noted by PED, according to The Bridge of Southern NM, in association with the collaborators mentioned in the bill, this will be a laboratory for cutting-edge computer coding, animation design and three-dimensional imaging to benefit medical research and virtual reality simulation.

NMSU notes health care is among the greatest social needs and among the greatest economic development opportunities in the state as well as the country. A Georgetown University report, *Recovery: Job Growth and Education Requirements through 2020*, lists health care and social assistance in New Mexico as the sector of employment with the highest rate of expected growth through 2020.

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