

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current and previously issued FIRs are available on the NM Legislative Website ([www.nmlegis.gov](http://www.nmlegis.gov)) and may also be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Ramos ORIGINAL DATE 2/18/19  
 LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE WNMU Indigenous Student Exchange Program SB 519

ANALYST Valenzuela

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY19	FY20		
	\$150.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico Higher Education Department (HED)

NO Response Received From

Western New Mexico University

### SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 519 appropriates \$150 thousand from the general fund to Western New Mexico University (WNMU) for the purpose of supporting an international student exchange program for indigenous students.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation included in the bill would fund the international student exchange program at WNMU. The bill is not specific in how the appropriation would be used for indigenous students. Presumably, the funding provided through this appropriation would allow WNMU to expand its international program specifically by recruiting indigenous students to study at WNMU. International students pay higher tuition rates than resident students. They also require housing and other services in the local community. Consequently, they have a positive economic impact for the community.

The appropriation of \$150 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY20 shall revert to the general fund. Higher education institutions do not revert unexpended balances to the general fund.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

WNMU has an Office of International Studies, which manages a study abroad program for both undergraduate and graduate students.

Because WNMU currently welcomes international students and facilitates study abroad opportunities for resident students, WNMU has a well-developed infrastructure to support the exchange program established by this bill.

MFV/al