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HOUSE BILL 160

46TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2003

INTRODUCED BY

Sheryl Williams Stapleton

AN ACT

**RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; CREATING THE WORK FORCE SKILLS
DEVELOPMENT FUND; PROVIDING MATCHING FUNDS FOR COMMUNITY
COLLEGE PROGRAMS; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.**

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

**Section 1. WORK FORCE SKILLS DEVELOPMENT FUND CREATED--
ALLOCATIONS--APPLICATION REVIEW PANELS.--**

**A. The "work force skills development fund" is
created in the state treasury. The fund shall consist of
appropriations, income from investment of the fund, gifts,
grants, donations and bequests. Money in the fund shall not
revert at the end of any fiscal year. The fund shall be
administered by the commission on higher education and money in
the fund is appropriated to the commission to provide matching
funds to community colleges for the development, expansion and**

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1 support of broad-based entry-level high-skills training
2 programs. Money from the fund shall be expended on warrants of
3 the secretary of finance and administration upon vouchers
4 signed by the executive director of the commission on higher
5 education or his authorized representative.

6 B. Community colleges may apply for matching grants
7 from the work force skills development fund in accordance with
8 rules promulgated by the commission on higher education.
9 Allocations from the fund shall be based on a competitive
10 process with applications reviewed by a panel of education,
11 business and labor experts established by the commission. To
12 apply for a grant, a community college must have equal or
13 greater matching funds for the proposal from sources other than
14 the state.

15 Section 2. APPROPRIATION. -- Three hundred thousand dollars
16 (\$300,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the work
17 force skills development fund for expenditure in fiscal year
18 2004 and subsequent fiscal years to provide matching funds for
19 community college high-skills training programs. Any
20 unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a
21 fiscal year shall not revert to any other fund.