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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Smith DATE TYPED 02-18-05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE WNMU School Technology Consortium SB 638

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$185.5			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to the appropriation for Western New Mexico University in the General Appropriations Act.

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Response Received From

New Mexico Public Education Department (PED)

No Response Received From

New Mexico Commission on Higher Education (CHE)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 638 – Making an Appropriation to Western New Mexico University for a School Technology Consortium – appropriates \$185,500 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of Western New Mexico University for expenditure in FY06 for the development and implementation of a school technology consortium. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

Significant Issues

PED suggests that this legislation is related to the Bootheel Consortium and provides educators with professional development so that they may prepare students for success in an ever-changing technological world.

As background on the consortium, four years ago members from six school districts and the local university in the southwest corner of the state met and began small group discussions about students in this area not being competitive with their peers in more affluent and more populated areas. The southwest corner of the state is a large rural isolated area with limited resources, a low economic base, and a high percentage of minorities. With these factors self evident, this group formed the *Bootheel Consortium* as a means to begin seeking solutions. Members of the consortium are the: Animas Public Schools, Cobre Consolidated Schools, Deming Public Schools, Lordsburg Municipal Schools, Reserve Independent School District, Silver Consolidated Schools, and Western New Mexico University. The goals of the consortium are to:

- Provide ongoing training and support for the integration of technology into curriculum and instruction by teachers and pre-service teachers throughout the Consortium.
- Facilitate the sharing of information and methodologies used by Consortium teachers for integrating technology into instruction.

To address these goals the consortium has established the following objectives:

- provide facilitators for sharing with teachers information about planning technology integration through conferencing, observing, and modeling implementation in the teachers' classrooms;
- provide training to consortium educators in specific technology skills and integration activities as concluded to be necessary by survey;
- maintain the consortium website where teachers will post lesson plans, presentations and ideas that promote student learning and incorporate the technology skills teachers learned through provided trainings;
- maintain the Learning Lab and related facilities at Western New Mexico University, as well as equipment distributed to member districts; and
- continue to provide specialized and in-depth training to on-site technology aides that provide day-to-day hardware and software support throughout the consortium.

This project is not included in CHE's *2005-2006 Higher Education Funding Recommendation*.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$185,500 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED notes that, if passed, this legislation indirectly addresses the department's core performance measures regarding Implementation of Education Reform Initiatives including Information Technology Reform Support and Information Technology Infrastructure Upgrade and Network

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

Relates to the appropriation for Western New Mexico University in the General Appropriations Act.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

PED notes that a May 6, 2004 *Education Week* article entitled "Technology Counts" discusses the fact that North American countries are making attempts to improve their educational systems through technology. PED further observes that while the United States has made great strides in placing technology in schools, it continues to struggle with effective use in the classroom. Leaders at the national and state levels are moving towards better communication and collaboration with neighboring countries. Collaboration between educators and those interested in educating our youths will result in research and strategies that will help both entities to teach and learn.

BFW/lg