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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

SPONSOR Rawson DATE TYPED 03-04-05 HB _____

SHORT TITLE NMSU Info & Communication and Tech Degree SB 1064

ANALYST Woods

APPROPRIATION

Appropriation Contained		Estimated Additional Impact		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY05	FY06	FY05	FY06		
	\$158.0			Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to the appropriation for New Mexico State University in the General Appropriations Act.
Relates to HB295

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files
New Mexico State University (NMSU)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 1064 – Making an Appropriation for the Bachelor Information and Communication Technology Program at New Mexico State University – appropriates \$158,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for expenditure in FY06 to maintain and expand the Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology program. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY06 shall revert to the general fund.

Significant Issues

NMSU indicates that the Bachelor of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Program is offered through the Department of Engineering Technology, one of seven departments in the NMSU College of Engineering. Like the other programs offered by the department, the ICT program places an emphasis on practical applications of engineering and science rather than

placing an emphasis on theory and derivation. There is an overlap between the curricula of the ICT Program and the department's Electronics and Computer Engineering Technology Program.¹

Unlike the other programs offered by the department, the ICT Program was not designed to be an engineering technology program. For example, the mathematics and science requirements are noticeably different. This and other differences do not compromise the program's objectives and maximize the use of transfer credit from a variety of programs.

The ICT curriculum covers the topics and concepts that are required to design, implement, and manage a variety of computer-based information systems. The curriculum includes the study of computer hardware, application and operating systems software, system integration, database design and management, networking, and network security. Graduates can expect to fill positions with titles such as Information Technologist, Project Manager, Systems or Network Administrator, Computer Support Specialist, and Database Administrator.²

The ICT courses are junior and senior level. This makes the program an attractive path to the baccalaureate degree for associate degree graduates of computer and other technology-related programs. However, an associate degree is not a requirement. Freshmen and sophomore students that are majoring in the program have numerous options and course combinations that will prepare them for their junior-senior ICT courses. These options include computer technology, business information systems, computer graphics, computer assisted design, and engineering technology.

This program was not included in the CHE's *2005-2006 Higher Education Funding Recommendation*.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$158,000 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

New Mexico State University will retain oversight of this program.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP OR RELATIONSHIP

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

Relates to HB295 in that HB295 seeks to appropriate \$158,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University for expenditure in FY06 to pay for the bachelor's degree completion program in information and communication technology.

BFW/Ig

¹ <http://et.nmsu.edu/~et-ict/background.html>

² <http://et.nmsu.edu/~et-ict/index.html>