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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/4/06

SPONSOR Lopez LAST UPDATED _____ HB _____

SHORT TITLE NM Tech Science & Math Career Preparation SB 595

ANALYST Earp

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$162.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates HB 463
 Relates to HB 756, SFCS/SB415, SB 618
 Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Public Education Department (PED)
 Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 595 appropriates \$162,000 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NMTech) for expenditure in FY07 for an organization dedicated to preparing students for careers in mathematics, engineering, and the sciences. The appropriation also shall be used to expand the programs of the organization in 12 to 18 public schools throughout the state.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$162,000 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

For fiscal year 2006, HED received an appropriation of \$914,400 for this program and NMTech submitted a program change request to the NMHED in the amount of \$162,000, for a total of

\$1,076,400. The base level of funding is included in the General Appropriation Act and, as of the date of this report, expansion funding in the amount of \$80,000 is included in SFCS/SB 415.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

This expansion proposal was included among the special program funding requests submitted by the NMTech to the Higher Education Department (HED) for review. However, this proposal has not been included in the HED fiscal year 2007 funding recommendations to the Legislature. The organization to be supported through the appropriation is apparently New Mexico Math, Engineering & Science Achievement, Inc. (NMMESA).

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMTech serves as fiscal agent and host to the New Mexico Mathematics, Engineering Science Achievement (NM MESA) Inc., a nonprofit organization that promotes educational enrichment for middle and high school students from historically under-represented ethnic groups. Funding for this program has been made in recent years through the HED, which distributes the funding to NMTech.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

House Bill 463 and Senate Bill 595 are duplicate measures.

This bill is also related to HB 756 which appropriates \$18,000 for NM MESA program expansion in Chaves County and to SB 618 which appropriates \$40,000 for NM MESA program expansion at Tohatchi middle school and Zuni high school.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

Information provided through HED indicates that NM MESA, in partnership with schools and universities, prepares these pre-college students for college and careers in mathematics, engineering, science, and related fields. NM MESA proposes to expand programs to reach underserved students in communities across the state. Currently there are MESA programs in one-third of New Mexico's public school districts, but less than 10% of state supported secondary schools. These funds will be earmarked to add 12 MESA programs in each of the six regions of the state: Central, North Central, North, Southeast, Southwest, and West. These programs will be supported by statewide and regional offices located in Gallup, Las Vegas (NMHU), Las Cruces, (NMSU), Roswell (ENMU), and Albuquerque (UNM & NM Tech).

NM MESA is based on a model that originated in 1970 at the University of California at Berkeley. Founded in 1982, NM MESA has grown to provide thousands of middle, junior high, and high school students with year-round support and career guidance. In the 2003-2004 school year, NM MESA served approximately 4,900 students in 101 schools and 31 school districts. NM MESA is governed by a board composed of bipartisan legislative representation (both state and federal); representatives of local and national companies; secondary schools; state universities; et al. Financial support is provided by the State of New Mexico; numerous state and national corporations and foundations; federal agencies; and private donations.