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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/10/06

SPONSOR Campos LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE NMHU Programs SB 601

ANALYST Earp

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY06	FY07		
	\$3,229.3	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB's 281, 722, 742 and SB's 271, 550, 674, 675, 689  
 Relates to Appropriations in the General Appropriation Act

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Public Education Department (PED)

Energy, Minerals and Natural Resources Department (EMNRD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 601 appropriates \$3,229,300 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) for expenditure in fiscal year 2007 for the following purposes:

- \$500,000 for the Ben Lujan Leadership and Public Policy Institute
- \$433,100 for the New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute
- \$388,000 for the Spanish program
- \$680,000 for the Technology Training Institute and Regional Communications Hub
- \$804,700 for the Northeastern New Mexico Economic Development meta-center
- \$423,500 for athletics

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriations contained in this bill appear to be recurring expenses to the general fund. Any

unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2007 shall revert to the general fund.

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

While the specific appropriation amounts vary somewhat, these proposals were included among the special program funding requests submitted by NMHU to the Higher Education Department (HED) for review. However, none of these expansion items has been included in the HED fiscal year 2007 funding recommendations to the Legislature.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS**

NMHU would bear administrative responsibility for all of the requested programs.

### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

This bill is related to several pieces of legislation that would provide funding for some of these programs at NMHU. Among the related bills are House Bills 281, 722, 742 and Senate Bills 271, 550, 674, 675, 689. Funding for some of these items is also included in the General Appropriation Act.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

Information provided through HED indicates that the requested funds would be utilized as follows:

1. Ben Lujan Leadership and Public Policy Institute. This bill provides direct support to student fellowships, speaker series, workshops, and career development. The appropriation will also support faculty members coordinating the community service component of the institute.
2. Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute. This newly-formed institute focuses on the management of mountain watersheds in the southern Rocky Mountain and High Plains ecological provinces. This institute is in collaboration with Colorado State University and Northern Arizona University. This bill provides the necessary funding that will allow NMHU to participate fully as a collaborative institution and provide research, methods, and contemporary practices that will improve forests and watersheds to create an ecological balance that reduces forest fire threats, destruction to soil structure, and pollution impacts to high quality watersheds located in northern New Mexico.
3. Spanish program. This bill supports the NMHU Spanish Program that seeks to integrate social work and business into a language program. By providing Spanish immersion into these programs this will create more opportunities for job placement upon graduation as well as provide skills needed to work in rural areas of New Mexico where Spanish is spoken prominently. NMHU is also developing an on-line course of Spanish immersion for health care professionals. Currently there is a statewide need for health care professionals and this bill addresses this need, particularly in rural areas throughout the state.
4. Technology Training Institute and Regional Communications Hub. The institute provides training for technology and use of computers as well as equipment maintenance and repair for

Las Vegas and surrounding areas. This will enable NMHU to provide training and repair for other state institutions such as the state hospital and local governments. The training will help sustain the program and allow surrounding technology needs to be serviced by NMHU staff and eventually after the training has taken place, other participating agency staff members will be able to address any current technological problems instead of relying on service technicians from as far away as Santa Fe.

5. Northeastern New Mexico Economic Development Meta-Center. NMHU has an ongoing agreement with the City of Las Vegas in assisting economic development. NMHU also is working with surrounding communities such as Mora and Springer in economic development initiatives.

6. Athletics. This bill supports the women's rodeo team and men's wrestling team as a part of the athletic department at NMHU. Due to high gasoline prices, there is a need to increase support for athletic teams that drive as far away as twelve hours in order to compete in the Rocky Mountain Athletic Conference (RMAC) that includes institutions in Colorado, Nebraska, and Kansas.

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