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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 2/12/2007

SPONSOR Pinto LAST UPDATED \_\_\_\_\_ HB \_\_\_\_\_

SHORT TITLE Native American Student Teaching Degrees SB 887

ANALYST McOlash

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY07	FY08		
	\$4,500.0	Non-Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Relates to HB 97.

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

Public Education Department (PED)

Indian Affairs Department (IAD)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 887 appropriates \$4,500,000 from the General Fund to the UNM Regents for expenditure in FY 2008 through FY 2010 to continue a scholarship program for Native American students pursuing a teaching degree or administrative licensure or a graduate degree with concentration in Indian Education.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$4,500,000 contained in this bill is a non-recurring expense to the General Fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY 2010 shall revert to the General Fund.

## **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

Native American students (2005-06) comprised 11.11% (36,474 of 328,202) of New Mexico's student population while Native American teachers made up only 2.6% (566 of 22,017), resulting in a Native American student to Native American teacher ratio of 64 to 1. Just 2.5% of the principals (26 of 1,039) were Native American.

The College of Education's Institute for American Indian Education (IAIE) was created in 2003 in response to New Mexico's critical need to improve academic achievement and reduce dropout rates of Native American students. The institute provides a forum for educators, scholars and tribal leaders to examine the critical education issues facing American Indian communities.

In 2004, the College of Education has received nearly \$900,000 from the New Mexico Public Education Department to increase the number of American Indian teachers and principals. Administered by UNM's IAIE, the three-year grant from Indian Education Division has provided scholarships and support for American Indian students at UNM. The grant will end this current year.

Through the grant, scholarships have been made available to Native Americans intending to teach in New Mexico. Program participants must be undergraduate, post-bachelor or graduate degree students interested in teaching or administration at the elementary or secondary levels. Students receive tuition and fees, a textbook allowance, travel expenses and a \$750 stipend each semester and are expected to complete the program in two consecutive years.

The IAIE students include 30 from NM Pueblos, 29 from the Navajo Nation, and seven from other nations. As a result of this program, 36 American Indian students are graduating with Bachelor's Degrees in Education with Teacher Licensure; 16 students graduated with a degree in Educational Administration and/or Administrative or Teacher Licensure, and five students are pursuing a Master's Degree in Education with a concentration in Indian Education.

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

HB 97 amends the Indian Education Act to expand the responsibilities of the Assistant Secretary for Indian Education in the Public Education Department and to mandate more consultation and collaboration with tribal entities which could lead to more successful answers to the contemporary and critical challenges in Indian Education.

## **ALTERNATIVES**

The Higher Education Department recommends seeking other sources of funding such as federal grants to fund this initiative or determine if the institution has existing funds available to help support this initiative. Native American students in the teacher education program at UNM may also apply for the New Mexico Teacher Loan-for-Service program.

BM/sb