

Short Title: NMSU Science & Math Outreach Programs

Sponsor(s): Senators Cynthia Nava, Mary Jane M. Garcia, Mary Kay Papen, and Leonard Lee Rawson

Analyst: Eilani Gerstner

Date: January 24, 2008

Bill Summary:

SB 144 appropriates funds to pay for coordination and expansion of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) educational outreach programs.

Fiscal Impact:

\$450,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico State University (NMSU) for expenditure in FY 09. The bill contains a reversion clause.

The Higher Education Department (HED) analysis of SB 144 says that this request was submitted to HED but that it is not included in HED's FY 09 funding recommendations.

NMSU has received approximately \$1.5 million from funds appropriated to the Public Education Department for summer reading, mathematics, and science institutes since 2006 and \$2.7 million in federal Mathematics & Science Partnership funds since 2004 to conduct professional development institutes. The summer institutes are for mathematics and science teacher professional development.

Issues:

According to NMSU's analysis of SB 144:

- The funding provided in SB 144 would be used to support the establishment and initial operation of a statewide STEM Success Center at NMSU.
- The center would provide access to high-quality professional development for teachers that emphasizes inquiry-based teaching strategies and pedagogy.
- The professional development would be delivered through summer institutes, distance education, and partnerships between businesses, national laboratories, and school districts.

During the 2007 interim, the LESC heard presentations on mathematics and science education in New Mexico, including testimony from NMSU on its STEM educational outreach programs to students, including SEMAA (Science, Engineering, and Mathematics Aerospace Academy) and the Gadsden math initiative (a separate bill making an appropriation to NMSU for SEMAA is noted below). NMSU also reported that students have been entering universities under-prepared in STEM fields and stressed the need for high-quality teachers with extensive content knowledge in STEM areas.



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NMSU has been actively involved in efforts to improve
ding the Gadsden math initiative, where NMSU helped
the lowest mathematics achievement in the state to
f most other predominantly Hispanic and low

Related Bills:

SB 156 *NMSU Science, Engineering & Math Academy*

SB 217 *School Math & Science Supercomputing Training* (identical to HB 131)

HB 131 *Science & Math Supercomputer School Training* (identical to SB 217)