

Short Title: NMSU Science, Engineering & Math Academy

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

Analyst: Eilani Gerstner

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**Bill Summary:**

SB 156 appropriates funds to support the Science, Engineering, Mathematics, and Aerospace Academy (SEMAA) to improve student achievement and increase participation statewide.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$200,000 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.

**Issues:**

According to NMSU's analysis of SB 156:

- SEMAA is an after-school enrichment program that combines school-based curriculum enhancement, university-organized enrichment activities, and parent outreach. The program serves 25 schools from Las Cruces Public Schools, Hatch Valley Public Schools, and Gadsden Independent Schools.
- The purpose of SEMAA is to engage historically underrepresented youth in activities in the fields of science, engineering, mathematics, and technology, with a particular focus on aerospace.
- Students may participate in an eight-week session each year until they graduate from high school. The parents of SEMAA students meet during the eight-week session to talk about science and math education and methods of helping their children succeed in school.
- SEMAA teachers are provided professional development that emphasizes teaching strategies that integrate an inquiry approach to teaching science, engineering, and mathematical concepts.

During the 2007 interim, the LESC heard presentations on mathematics and science education in New Mexico, including testimony from NMSU on its science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) educational outreach programs to students, including SEMAA. NMSU also reported that students have been entering universities under-prepared in STEM fields and



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between minority and white students. The presentation also  
ers with extensive content knowledge in STEM areas.  
s funds to the University of New Mexico to host a similar  
nts.

**Related Bills:**

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

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

HB 137 *NM Supercomputing Challenge*

HB 149 *Minority Student Math & Science Skills*