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48th Legislature, 2nd Session, 2008

**Short Title:** Albuquerque Youth Digital Media Training

**Sponsor(s):** Senators Bernadette M. Sanchez and Carlos R. Cisneros

**Analyst:** Peter van Moorsel

**Date:** January 22, 2008

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**Bill Summary:**

SB 176 appropriates funds to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico (UNM) for the Department of Media Arts to provide digital media training and outreach for youth in Albuquerque.

**Fiscal Impact:**

\$100,000 is appropriated from the General Fund for expenditure in FY 09. The bill contains a reversion clause.

**Issues:**

According to UNM, SB 176 would fund Mi Voz, a 6-8 month program provided by Youth Development, Inc. (YDI) in partnership with the UNM Cinematic Arts Department. Mi Voz is an after-school program that involves youth in all aspects of filmmaking, and currently serves 10 middle school students in Albuquerque Public Schools (APS). Subjects include directing, scripting, acting, and operating sound and video equipment. Through a series of lectures and hands on trainings, youth gain important developmental skills in problem solving, critical thinking, and work ethic. Other benefits include improving self-confidence and fostering creativity and expression.

According to YDI, films created as part of Mi Voz have been successful and have gained recognition. One such film, "The Day the World Ended," is a short comedy that was accepted into the New York International Film and Video Festival. "A Day at the Ditch," another film created by students participating in Mi Voz, won 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the 2004 Governor's Cup, as well as the Audience Choice Award in the 2004 Alibi Film Festival.

YDI states that students participating in Mi Voz benefit from the expertise of faculty of the UNM Department of Cinematic Arts. The department is dedicated to the study and practice of film and video as art. In the hope of understanding and enhancing the immense role of film and video in the modern world, the program offers the student a broad foundation in the purposes of art and culture.

**Related Bills:**

None