

Fiscal impact reports (FIRs) are prepared by the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) for standing finance committees of the NM Legislature. The LFC does not assume responsibility for the accuracy of these reports if they are used for other purposes.

Current FIRs (in HTML & Adobe PDF formats) are available on the NM Legislative Website (legis.state.nm.us). Adobe PDF versions include all attachments, whereas HTML versions may not. Previously issued FIRs and attachments may be obtained from the LFC in Suite 101 of the State Capitol Building North.

## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/23/08  
 LAST UPDATED 1/28/08      HB 102/aHEC

SPONSOR Vigil

SHORT TITLE NM Highlands Ben D. Altamirano Institute      SB \_\_\_\_\_

ANALYST Haug

### APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$300.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

#### Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)  
 New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU)

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of HEC Amendment

The House Education Committee amendment redirects the appropriation from New Mexico Highlands University to Western New Mexico University.

#### Synopsis of Original Bill

House Bill 102 appropriates \$300.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Highlands University to establish the Ben D. Altamirano institute.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$300.0 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of fiscal year 2009 shall revert to the general fund.

The HED states that this request was submitted by NMHU to the New Mexico Higher Education Department and was not included in the Department's funding recommendation for FY09.

The HED's evaluation table of FY09 Research and Public Service Projects provided to the LFC classifies this project as a "does not fit within HED priorities for Higher Education" project. Reasons for this classification decision are not provided. (LFC Report 07-20, Higher Education Department Review of Selected Research and Public Service Projects, January 12, 2008, Table 4, p73.)

### **SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

The HED states that NMHU's Ben D. Altamirano Institute aims to provide workshops and seminars for high school students and parents; involve educational and motivational activities to encourage students to enroll in higher education; emphasize reading, writing, math and leadership skills.

According to NMHU, Prior to FY07 funding was provided to Luna Community college to fund the Ben Altamirano Institute. During the 2006 legislative session, \$300.0 non-recurring (section 5) was appropriated to NMHU for the Ben Altamirano Institute. The 2007 Legislative session did not provide funding for this program. NMHU considers this program to be viable and has continued the program at a much reduced effort in FY08.

GH/mt:bb