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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE
LAST UPDATED 01/28/08 **HB** 457

SPONSOR Maestas

SHORT TITLE UNM Center for Regional Studies **SB** _____

ANALYST Escudero

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$1,890.7	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 457 appropriates \$1,890.7 from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of University of New Mexico (UNM) for expenditure in FY09 for the Center for Regional Studies (CRS).

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$1,890.7 contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY09 shall revert to the general fund.

A request for the UNM Center for Southwest Research, which includes CRS, was submitted to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review. The Department's funding recommendation for FY09 is a continuance of FY08 recurring funding in the amount \$1,905.6.

The HED's evaluation table of FY09 Research and Public Service Projects provided to the LFC classifies this project as a "would not oppose if funding available" 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, p76.)

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

As stated by HED, according to information included in the Research and Public Service Project (RPSP) submitted by UNM, the scope of the request is to promote the quest for knowledge about New Mexico and the U.S. - Mexico Borderlands region through research and related activities. Interpretation and analysis of historical and contemporary questions, issues and problems that stimulate inquiry and debate are encouraged. The target population is students, faculty, researchers and the general public.

The center offers undergraduate, graduate, thesis, dissertation fellowships/scholarships and a limited number of postdoctoral and visiting faculty fellowships. Collections and the preservation of archival materials funded through the CRS have increased access to such information by researchers and other scholars through libraries, schools, museums and other centers.

- According to information submitted by UNM in the RPSP, participating students have advanced in their educational careers as evidenced by their reapplying for financial aid.
- Awards granted have produced scholarly educational publications, books, plays, workshops, seminars and conferences that will be disseminated through libraries, museums, schools and other centers.
- The CRS awarded 16 fellowships in FY07 and 17 in FY08; awarded 24 research grants in FY07 and 25 in FY08; awarded 43 scholarships/fellowships in FY07 and 44 in FY08; funded 18 projects/programs in FY07 and 18 in FY08.

PME/bb