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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 1/30/08

SPONSOR Miera LAST UPDATED _____ HB 541

SHORT TITLE UNM Latin American Resources Center SB _____

ANALYST Haug

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
FY08	FY09		
	\$40.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)

University of New Mexico (UNM)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 541 appropriates \$40.0 from the general fund to the Board of Regents of the University of New Mexico for programs at the Center for Latin American Resources and Outreach.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$40.0 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 not submitted by UNM to the New Mexico Higher Education Department for review and was not recommended by the Executive.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The HED states:

CLARO is the educational and community outreach unit of the Latin American Iberian Institute (LAI). According to UNM's website, CLARO's mission is to disseminate and expand awareness, knowledge, and understanding of the Ibero-American world through collection, production, and distribution of educational multidisciplinary materials to teachers, students, businesses, corporations, educational institutions, government entities, and community organizations. In addition, CLARO serves the private and public sectors by offering workshops, seminars, and conferences.

CLARO's goals are:

- to reach an audience beyond the borders of the United States of America;
- to interact with Ibero-American universities in the production of on-line interactive workshops, classes, symposia, and seminars; and
- to establish an international clearinghouse for the development and distribution of instructional materials.

To better disseminate CLARO's programs and services, CLARO actively develops collaborative partnerships and resource sharing with government entities, educational institutions, and community organizations.

According to Dr. Maria Kelly, Director of CLARO, the funding requested in HB541 will be used to expand the program and services to the community. Research and development of educational materials for classroom teachers are the primary activities of the project. With globalization comes the need to further understand perspectives of people from other cultures, especially in relation to their views of the United States. In addition to fostering an appreciation of others, primarily our Latin American neighbors, CLARO attempts to bridge the cultural gaps by demonstrating that there are often more commonalities than differences among peoples.

GH/mt