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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 01/27/12

SPONSOR Nunez LAST UPDATED _____ HB 147

SHORT TITLE Dona Ana County Educational Initiative SB _____

ANALYST Hartzler-Toon

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY12	FY13		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

*Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act, Section 4, J Higher Education, New Mexico State University, Dona Ana Branch

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

Higher Education Department (HED)
 New Mexico State University (NMSU)
 Dona Ana Community College (DACC)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

The bill making an appropriation to New Mexico State University (NMSU) for Dona Ana Community College to implement the Dona Ana County Regional Educational Initiative appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to the NMSU regents to support the Dona Ana County regional education initiative.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY13 shall revert to the general fund.

Funding under this bill would provide a matching amount for a \$345 thousand, multi-year W.K. Kellogg Foundation grant for the regional education initiative.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

According to the NMSU-DACC, the appropriation will be used by the community college to support the Dona Ana County regional education initiative, also known as The Bridge Program. The Bridge Program is an educational initiative driven by the local business community to develop the local workforce and reduce the high school drop-out rate. The program's board of directors works to coordinate the efforts of educational partners, including the Las Cruces, Gadsden, and Hatch public schools and NMSU main campus and the community college. A principle goal of the program is to support the development of the Early College High School (ECHS) in Dona Ana County.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

The educational initiative will work to reduce the high school drop-out rate, improve college readiness, and better prepare students for the workplace.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

The HED response noted that regional education initiative is credited with developing the state's first early college high school (ECHS) at NMSU-DACC and has facilitated collaboration between public and private sectors to support education and build individual workforce skills. However, the department noted that NMSU board of regents did not submit a request for this project to the department as part of its annual process for reviewing public service projects.

THT/amm:svb