

**LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
BILL ANALYSIS**

Bill Number: SB 255

51st Legislature, 1st Session, 2013

Tracking Number: .191088.1SA

Short Title: NMSU Minority Student Services Program

Sponsor(s): Senator Mary Kay Papen and Others

Analyst: Travis Dulany

Date: February 7, 2013

Bill Summary:

SB 255 makes an appropriation to support Minority Student Services (MSS) at New Mexico State University (NMSU).

Fiscal Impact:

\$100,000 is appropriated from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of NMSU for FY 14. Unexpended or unencumbered funds revert to the General Fund at the end of FY 14.

Fiscal Issues:

According to the Fiscal Impact Report from the Legislative Finance Committee (LFC):

- in FY 13, MSS received a General Fund appropriation of \$421,400;
- for FY 14, the LFC has recommended an appropriation of \$426,500, an increase of \$5,100 to provide for the employer's educational retirement contribution; and
- if the Legislature adopts the LFC's FY 14 recommendation and enacts the provisions of SB 255, MSS would receive \$526,500 for FY 14.

According to the NMSU, the New Mexico Alliance for Minority Participation (New Mexico AMP) (see *Substantive Issues*, below) applied for continued National Science Foundation (NSF) funding in October 2012. The university reports that state support:

- for the program demonstrates New Mexico's commitment to the program's goals and objectives;
- demonstrates funding stability and sustainability; and
- is critical to successful reapplication for NSF funding, which would provide an additional \$3.0 million in federal funds over the next five years and expand the life of the program to 25 years.

Substantive Issues:

According to the NMSU bill analysis, MSS comprises two programs:

1. the **College Assistance Migrant Program** (NMSU CAMP) serves:
 - education needs of New Mexico farm workers by recruiting and retaining them at NMSU, with the goal of graduation; and
 - eligible US citizens and permanent residents from across the state; and
2. the **Alliances for Underrepresented Students**:
 - serve under-represented minority students and students with disabilities in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) disciplines;
 - are statewide in nature; and include:
 - New Mexico AMP; and
 - the Reaching the Pinnacle programs (RTP).

Also according to NMSU, the increase in appropriations for MSS would:

- increase student visits and exposure to opportunities available through internationally recognized labs and research, such as:
 - Spaceport America;
 - the Building Research Achievement in Neuroscience laboratory;
 - the Medicinal Plants of the Southwest research program; and
 - the NMSU Bridge Inspection Program;
- increase participation in the annual NMSU CAMP Research and Internship/Study Abroad Expo, where students share their research projects or field experiences and strengthen their presentation and leadership skills;
- support community college student participation in the New Mexico AMP Summer Community College Opportunity for Research program, a five-week, residential experience for community college students across New Mexico; and
- increase attendance at STEM conferences, as well as assist students to purchase necessary books and materials and provide support for other research-related activities.

Background:

The NMSU bill analysis reports that:

- since 1993, New Mexico AMP has received approximately \$40.0 million in funding for student support, teacher preparation, and graduate student transition to doctorates in the STEM disciplines;
- 7,859 STEM degrees have been awarded since academic year 1993-1994;
- in 2010, 42.5 percent of STEM degrees were awarded to under-represented students, which is an increase from the baseline of 24 percent in academic year 1993-1994;
- since 2002, NMSU CAMP has leveraged approximately \$4.0 million for mostly Hispanic students:
 - academic support and retention toward graduation;
 - professional preparedness after graduation; and
 - leadership opportunities for farm worker students;

- more than 80 percent of NMSU CAMP program graduates work throughout New Mexico as:
 - teachers;
 - scientists;
 - engineers; or
 - accountants; and

- the Alliances for Underrepresented Students support approximately 2,500 students per year through:
 - outreach;
 - mentoring;
 - orientations and courses;
 - stipends;
 - research experiences; and
 - transfer assistance activities with involvement and assistance of K-12 teachers.

Committee Referrals:

SEC/SFC

Related Bills:

HB 109 *NMSU Adult 4-H Training*

HB 218 *NMSU Indian Resources Development Program*