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FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

ORIGINAL DATE 02/04/13
 LAST UPDATED 02/23/13 HB _____

SPONSOR Papen

SHORT TITLE NMSU Minority Student Services Program SB 255

ANALYST Hartzler-Toon

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY13	FY14		
	\$100.0	Recurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act, New Mexico State University, Minority Student Services Program

SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

Responses Received From

New Mexico State University (NMSU)
 Higher Education Department (HED)

SUMMARY

Synopsis of Bill

Senate Bill 255 (SB 255) appropriates \$100 thousand from the general fund to the New Mexico State University (NMSU) to support the Minority Student Services Program.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

In FY13, the Minority Student Services Program received \$421.4 thousand in state general fund appropriations. House Bill 2 (HB 2) included a general fund appropriation of \$440.3 thousand for this program for FY14. This represents a slight increase (\$18.9 thousand) over FY13 levels to fund state contributions under statutes relating to retirement contributions. If HB 2, as passed by the House, and SB 255 are enacted, the Minority Student Services Program would receive \$540.3 thousand for FY14, an increase of \$188.9 thousand, or 28 percent, over the FY13 level.

The appropriation of \$100 thousand contained in this bill is a recurring expense to the general fund. While SB 255 states that any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end

FY14 shall revert to the general fund, language in Section 4 of the General Appropriation Act would make these funds nonreverting unless explicitly stated otherwise.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

The NMSU allocates the state's general fund appropriation for the Minority Student Services Program between two programs:

- (1) The **College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP)** serves the educational needs of farm workers in New Mexico by recruiting and retaining them until their graduation at the NMSU across all majors and disciplines. It serves eligible U.S. citizens and permanent residents from across the state.
- (2) The **Alliances for Underrepresented Students** (comprised of the New Mexico Alliance for Minority Participation and the Reaching The Pinnacle-RTP programs) serves underrepresented minority students and students with disabilities in the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) disciplines; both AMP and RTP are statewide in nature.

The NMSU reports that an increase in general fund support will help these two programs accomplish the following:

- increase student visits and exposure to opportunities available through internationally recognized labs and research, such as Spaceport America, the Building Research Achievement in Neuroscience (BRAiN) laboratory, the Medicinal Plants of the Southwest (MPSW) research program, and the NMSU Bridge Inspection Program.
- increase participation in the annual 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 (SCCORE) program, a five-week, residential experience benefitting community college students from across New Mexico.
- increase attendance at STEM research conferences, assist students to purchase necessary books and materials, and provide support for other research-related activities.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

These two programs provide performance reports to the Higher Education Department (HED) as part of the annual budget review process. The programs report that

- The Alliances for Underrepresented Students supports an average of 2,500 students annually through outreach (k-12), mentoring, orientations, stipends, research experiences, and transfer assistance between two-year and four-year institutions.
- Of nearly 100 students who have participated in the SCCORE program (described above), 61 have transferred to four-year institutions, with 95 percent of these students studying in science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) disciplines.
- The College Assistance Migrant Program students have a 42 percent 4-4.5 year graduation rate (on par with the NMSU rate) and have an average graduating GPA of 3.21

DUPLICATION

SB 255 duplicates the General Appropriation Act, New Mexico State University, Minority Services Program appropriation.

THT/bm:svb