

<b>LFC Requester:</b>	LFC
-----------------------	-----

**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS  
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

**WITHIN 24 HOURS OF BILL POSTING, EMAIL ANALYSIS TO:**

[LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV](mailto:LFC@NMLEGIS.GOV)

*and*

[DFA@STATE.NM.US](mailto:DFA@STATE.NM.US)

*{Include the bill no. in the email subject line, e.g., HB2, and only attach one bill analysis and related documentation per email message}*

**SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION**

*{Indicate if analysis is on an original bill, amendment, substitute or a correction of a previous bill}*

*Click all that apply:*

Original     Amendment      
Correction     Substitute   

Date 2025-02-21

Bill No: HB499

Sponsor: Dow, Rebecca  
Short    NM TECH STUDENT  
Title:    SUCCESS CENTER

Agency Name  
and Code            NMHED  
Number: \_\_\_\_\_  
Person Writing        Leakakos, Joseph  
Phone: 5054128059    Email joseph.leakakos@hed.nm.gov

**SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT**

**APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)**

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26		
	2,550.00	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**REVENUE (dollars in thousands)**

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY25	FY26	FY27		


(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

**ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)**

	<b>FY25</b>	<b>FY26</b>	<b>FY27</b>	<b>3 Year Total Cost</b>	<b>Recurring or Nonrecurring</b>	<b>Fund Affected</b>
<b>Total</b>						

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Conflicts with/Companion to/Relates to:

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act:

**SECTION III: NARRATIVE**

**BILL SUMMARY**

House Bill 499 (HB499) makes an appropriation of two million five hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$2,550,000) from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (New Mexico Tech) for expenditure in Fiscal Year (FY) 2026 through FY28 to pay for the operational expenses of a science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) Student Success Center.

**FISCAL IMPLICATIONS**

HB499 makes an appropriation of two million five hundred fifty thousand dollars (\$2,550,000) from the General Fund to the Board of Regents of New Mexico Tech for expenditure in FY26 through FY28. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY28 reverts to the General Fund.

**SIGNIFICANT ISSUES**

HB499 allocates funding to support New Mexico Tech's operational expenses for a STEM Student Success Center. The primary issue with HB499 is that it lacks specifics about the New Mexico Tech STEM Student Success Center, only allocating funds without detailing the center's structure, goals, or implementation plan.

It is unclear if this is a new student success center or part of an existing center such as the Engineering Student Success (ESS) Center (<https://ess.unm.edu/>). The ESS Center provides support for engineering and computer science students, both falling within the larger STEM umbrella. HB499 speaks to supporting operational expenses, not startup costs, but these could go towards a new student success center. Further, New Mexico Tech focuses on STEM education, and most of its programs fall under STEM disciplines, so it is unclear if the STEM Student Success Center is meant for all New Mexico Tech students or if it will focus on a subset of those students.

Since HB499's funding lasts through FY28, one question is how New Mexico Tech will support the STEM Student Success Center in subsequent years. Assuming the center is successful, it could be a detriment to students to have a few years of enhanced STEM support and then lose that support.

New Mexico Tech did not submit a research and public service project (RPSP) request to the New Mexico Higher Education Department (NMHED).

#### PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

N/A

#### ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

NMTECH may need additional staff and faculty to oversee the new STEM Student Success Center.

#### CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

N/A

#### TECHNICAL ISSUES

N/A

#### OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

N/A

#### ALTERNATIVES

New Mexico Tech could find other funding or could submit a request for an RPSP through NMHED.

#### WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

New Mexico Tech will not receive an appropriation to support the operations of the STEM Student Success Center.

AMENDMENTS

N/A