

LFC Requester:	Jorgensen
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**AGENCY BILL ANALYSIS
2023 REGULAR SESSION**

SECTION I: GENERAL INFORMATION

Check all that apply:

Original X **Amendment**
Correction **Substitute**

Date Prepared: 02/08/23

Bill No: SB347

Sponsor: Pope

Short Title: NMSU STEM PLUS CENTER

**Agency Name
and Code**

Number: PED - 924

Person Writing Gregory Frostad

Phone: (505) 470-5752 **Email:** gregory.frostad@ped.nm.gov

SECTION II: FISCAL IMPACT

APPROPRIATION (dollars in thousands)

Appropriation		Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24		
0	\$5,000.00	Nonrecurring	General Fund

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

REVENUE (dollars in thousands)

Estimated Revenue			Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
FY23	FY24	FY25		
None	None	None	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY23	FY24	FY25	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Nonrecurring	Fund Affected
Total	None	None	None	None	N/A	N/A

(Parenthesis () Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

Duplicates/Relates to Appropriation in the General Appropriation Act

SECTION III: NARRATIVE

BILL SUMMARY

Synopsis: Senate Bill 347 (SB347) would create the Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics Plus (STEM+) Center of Excellence for Teaching and Learning at New Mexico State University (NMSU) to work toward developing and promoting innovation in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics fields in collaboration with state agency leaders,

higher education institutions, the business sector, national laboratories, and community organizations.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

SB47 would appropriate \$5 million from the general fund to the Board of Regents of NMSU for expenditure in FY24 through FY26 to hire full-time staff for the STEM+ Center of Excellence for Teaching and Learning and for operational expenses. The bill would require any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at the end of FY26 to revert to the general fund.

As with the existing Centers of Excellence, the Higher Education Department (HED) would retain authority to evaluate project success and recommend future funding through the research and public service project process.

According to NMSU, the \$5 million appropriation would be used to hire full-time staff to be tasked with establishing a networked ecosystem among higher education, Public Education Department (PED) and K-12, NM Workforce Solutions, and employers (industry, non-governmental organizations, Tribal, and state government). The networked ecosystem of STEM educators, would seek:

- opportunities to leverage existing state funding (i.e., PED, school districts, Workforce Solutions);
- opportunities to increase community and student engagement in the Center (i.e., NGOs, industry and Community Foundations); and
- federal grant funding, where applicable, to augment the Center's work.

SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

In 2019, House Bill 7 (HB7) created four Centers of Excellence at New Mexico higher education institutions to support and drive innovation in growing economic sectors and build closer links between research and industry. The Centers of Excellence include:

- Center of Excellence for cybersecurity at New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NM Tech).
- Center of Excellence for sustainable and renewable energy industries at San Juan College.
- Center of Excellence for bioscience at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center.
- Center of Excellence for sustainable agriculture at New Mexico State University.

The gap in STEM prepared workers has become a major challenge for employers, educators, jobseekers, students, and government entities across the state and nation. New Mexico is facing large vacancies in STEM related jobs. New Mexico's largest federal employers like Los Alamos National Laboratories and Sandia National Laboratories, require a steady stream of STEM educated workers, of which the state is currently not producing. Further, the NM Economic Development Strategic Plan has identified opportunities for focused economic and workforce development in key economic sectors that will need more STEM graduates at all levels.

PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS

None.

ADMINISTRATIVE IMPLICATIONS

PED would need to have a representative serve as part of the STEM+ network. Additionally, for

the center to fully realize its goal to transform STEM teaching and learning, collaboration would be needed across higher education, PED, K-12, and business and industry.

CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP

None.

TECHNICAL ISSUES

None.

OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES

None.

ALTERNATIVES

None.

WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL

None.

AMENDMENTS

None.