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HOUSE BILL 280

56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023

INTRODUCED BY

Derrick J. Lente

AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF TWO AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTERS IN THE STATE; PROVIDING POWERS AND DUTIES; REQUIRING REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE CENTERS; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF NEW MEXICO:

SECTION 1. A new section of Chapter 21 NMSA 1978 is enacted to read:

"[NEW MATERIAL] AMERICAN INDIAN EDUCATION TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CENTERS--HIGHER EDUCATION DEPARTMENT TO ESTABLISH-- PROCUREMENT FOR CENTERS' OPERATIONS--POWERS AND DUTIES.--

A. The higher education department shall establish two American Indian education technical assistance centers to provide technical assistance and support for tribal education

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1 departments and tribal communities, with a primary focus on
2 American Indian students' education and success, while also
3 working in partnership with the higher education department,
4 the public education department and the early childhood
5 education and care department to support:

6 (1) the development of culturally relevant and
7 linguistically appropriate curriculum and instructional
8 materials;

9 (2) career pathways for American Indian
10 educators;

11 (3) professional development opportunities for
12 licensed school employees and school administrators in
13 culturally and linguistically relevant pedagogy;

14 (4) education policy developments and capacity
15 building for tribal communities;

16 (5) collaboration with state education
17 agencies on tribal-related programs to help agencies with
18 outreach, recommend indigenous educators, scholars and
19 professionals as consultants to tribal programs and participate
20 in funding applications to support the technical assistance
21 centers and other statewide indigenous education efforts;

22 (6) collaboration with institutions serving
23 American Indian students, including school districts, charter
24 schools, early childhood centers and programs, bureau of Indian
25 education schools and public and tribal higher education

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1 institutions; and

2 (7) additional responsibilities or duties
3 related to American Indian education or vocational support
4 determined by consultation among the various stakeholders.

5 B. Two American Indian education technical
6 assistance centers in geographically distinct regions of the
7 state shall serve all American Indian students and federally
8 recognized Indian nations, tribes and pueblos located wholly or
9 partially in New Mexico. The higher education department shall
10 seek tribal input and feedback from the public education
11 department and the early childhood education and care
12 department for the preparation of a request for proposals to
13 operate a center and provide the services specified in the
14 request for proposals, including the:

15 (1) types of technical assistance provided to
16 institutions serving American Indian students, including school
17 districts, charter schools, early childhood centers, homes and
18 programs, bureau of Indian education schools, public and tribal
19 higher education institutions, tribally operated departments
20 and tribal governments; and

21 (2) partnerships the centers propose to
22 develop, including with state agencies, school districts,
23 charter schools, early education centers, homes and programs,
24 bureau of Indian education schools, federally recognized Indian
25 nations, tribes and pueblos and public and tribal higher

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1 education institutions.

2 C. The higher education department's request for
3 proposals shall prioritize applications from tribal colleges
4 and universities in New Mexico, American Indian programs at New
5 Mexico public higher education institutions and tribally
6 controlled institutions and entities with demonstrated
7 experience and knowledge of working with American Indian
8 students and federally recognized Indian nations, tribes and
9 pueblos located wholly or partially in New Mexico and include
10 how a center is expected to:

- 11 (1) set goals, objectives and benchmarks;
- 12 (2) provide annual reports on the progress and
13 status of projects undertaken to be made available to the
14 higher education department, which will then distribute the
15 reports to appropriate agencies, the governor's office and the
16 legislature; and
- 17 (3) report contracting and financial
18 accounting information to the department in the form required
19 by the higher education department."

20 SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--Two million two hundred fifty
21 thousand dollars (\$2,250,000) is appropriated from the general
22 fund to the higher education department for expenditure in
23 fiscal year 2024 and subsequent fiscal years to establish the
24 American Indian education technical assistance centers, pay for
25 staff and maintain operational expenses. Any unexpended or

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1 unencumbered balance remaining at the end of a fiscal year
2 shall not revert to the general fund.

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