



State of New Mexico

Office of the Governor

Bill Richardson
Governor

News release:
January 11, 2006

Contact: Jon Goldstein
505-476-2248

Governor Bill Richardson Proposes \$8 Million Investment in Improvements at ENMU, CCC

Governor's Investment Part of "Year of the Child" Legislative Proposals

SANTA FE -- Governor Bill Richardson today announced \$8 million in investments in bricks and mortar projects at Eastern New Mexico University and Clovis Community College. Funding for these projects will be included in the Governor's capital outlay budget recommendations to be considered during the upcoming legislative session.

"I am committed to improving New Mexico's colleges and universities during this Year of the Child," said Governor Richardson. "These projects will mean better educational opportunities for the people of New Mexico."

Governor Richardson's funding priorities include:

Clovis Community College, Allied Health Center: \$2 million

This will help fund a 25,000 square foot facility that will house specialized classrooms and labs for the college's growing nursing program, radiological technology program and emergency medical services program.

ENMU Distance Learning Equipment and KENW Connectivity: \$1 million

This will help the college purchase routers, video projectors, and digital television equipment to facilitate distance learning programs in Hobbs, Tucumcari, Roswell and Ruidoso.

ENMU Science Building: \$1.5 million

This funding will help expand the planned new science building at ENMU by 8,000 square feet.

ENMU Music Building Renovation: \$1 million

The music building was built in 1957, while ENMU's music department has experienced significant growth in the past few years. This building hosts most of the orchestral and choral instruction at the university it is also the main community venue for student musical performances.

ENMU-Roswell Allied Health: \$2 million

This funding will help build an addition to the Health Sciences Center. This addition will facilitate the expansion of the Emergency Medical Services program, relocate the dental assisting program and add a new dental hygiene program. The addition will be 19,600 square feet.

ENMU-Ruidoso Branch: \$500,000

This funding will help provide much-needed classroom furniture and instructional equipment. ENMU-Ruidoso's enrollment has grown by a yearly average of 3.9% over the last 10 years.

"An investment in higher education is an investment in New Mexico's future," said Dr. Beverlee J. McClure, Cabinet Secretary of Higher Education. "These projects are evidence of the growth on our campuses."

These funding proposals join Governor Richardson's recently announced Year of the Child agenda for higher education. This agenda includes:

\$50 million investment in a College Affordability Endowment. The endowment will immediately generate investment income that can be used for need-based scholarships at New Mexico colleges and universities. The new scholarships will enable thousands of new students to enroll in higher education institutions in New Mexico. And with just a modest return on a \$50-million dollar endowment, the state can help many New Mexicans begin – and most importantly – complete their education. Scholarships would be worth as much as \$1,000 per semester, and would fund unmet need of financially disadvantaged students.

\$10 million for Career Technical-Vocational programs – Last year, Governor Richardson and the Legislature invested \$10 million in Career Technical Centers/Vocational Charter High Schools at 18 different institutions. This year, with another \$10 million, these programs can be expanded and additional ones added to increase the number of students served. These Centers create career pathways for juniors and seniors in high school and help prepare them for the future, beginning now.

\$1 million to align High Schools with Higher Education – Governor Richardson is proposing to redefine the New Mexico High School Competency Exam by making it more relevant, especially for students who are going on to college. Governor Richardson

is proposing \$1 million to develop a new test that both meets the requirements of high school graduation and better prepares students for higher education.

“With a strong financial outlook, now is the time to invest in New Mexicans,” said Governor Richardson. “We can do this in a fiscally prudent manner – by funding projects and initiatives that will benefit thousands of New Mexico students and help us build a high-wage economy.”

#30#