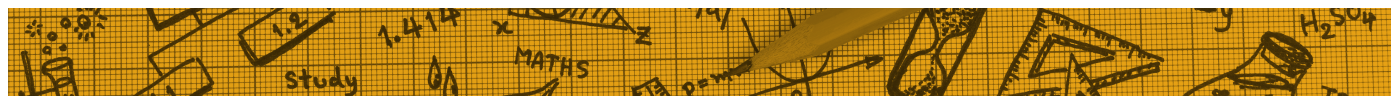


A STEM INNOVATION NETWORK FOR NEW MEXICO



STEM = SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING, AND MATH

The importance of STEM education: New Mexican students are facing a science-technology driven future and we need to provide them with the skills they need to live, work, and thrive in the world of tomorrow. Workers in STEM fields are already in high demand and the number of STEM occupations is growing throughout New Mexico.

The Current State of STEM Education in New Mexico:

INEQUITABLE access to high quality 21st Century STEM education

UNDERREPRESENTATION of women, people of color, and LGBTQ+

INSUFFICIENT number of STEM graduates to fill available positions

A STEM Innovation Network: By establishing and funding a STEM Innovation Network, New Mexico could ensure that every student has access to culturally sustaining inquiry STEM learning opportunities in school every day, regular access to out-of-school STEM learning opportunities, and consistent opportunities to learn about and experience STEM careers throughout New Mexico.

Goals: A STEM Innovation Network would:

- Identify, connect, and strengthen our existing STEM programs!
- Create a framework to identify, designate, expand, and elevate quality STEM programming PreK to college
- Work with Tribal and Regional Hubs to ensure excellent in-school and out-of-school STEM learning opportunities are accessible to every New Mexican student!
- Equip our students with the STEM experiences they need to develop the knowledge, skills, and interests that our state's future citizens and workforce require.
- Increase and coordinate professional learning for educators and leaders to ensure students have access to current, relevant, and innovative STEM learning.

We Know It Works: Many states have successful STEM networks - such as Iowa, Louisiana, Ohio, and Tennessee - that have improved performance in standardized testing, increased interest in STEM, and produced higher numbers of students majoring in high-demand STEM fields who want to stay in their home state. Our students deserve these opportunities too! Our state needs STEM prepared students!

How Can We Make This Happen? We can make this vision of a STEM Innovation Network into a reality by supporting and passing legislation that both creates and funds the Network while also leveraging existing structures. Today, legislation is being drafted to go before the state legislature in January 2024. The proposed legislation will cover operating costs to staff the central hub in year one, in year two regional hubs will be identified. Over time, with essential operating costs funded by the state, the network's development staff will augment programming through grants and donations.

Accountability: The state entity that provides funding to the Network will hold it accountable for completing their mission. The Network's Advisory Council would be required to submit an annual report and collect data to demonstrate its efficacy.

Ultimately, we need to better prepare our students of today so New Mexico can thrive in the science-technology-driven 21st Century and beyond!

