

CONNECTING THE DOTS

PREPARING NEW MEXICO STUDENTS FOR CAREERS IN STEM

Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) Presentation
July 25th, 2024

Presented by Monica Sandoval-Johnson, PhD
CEO of STEM Boomerang

Fostering STEM Workforce in New Mexico



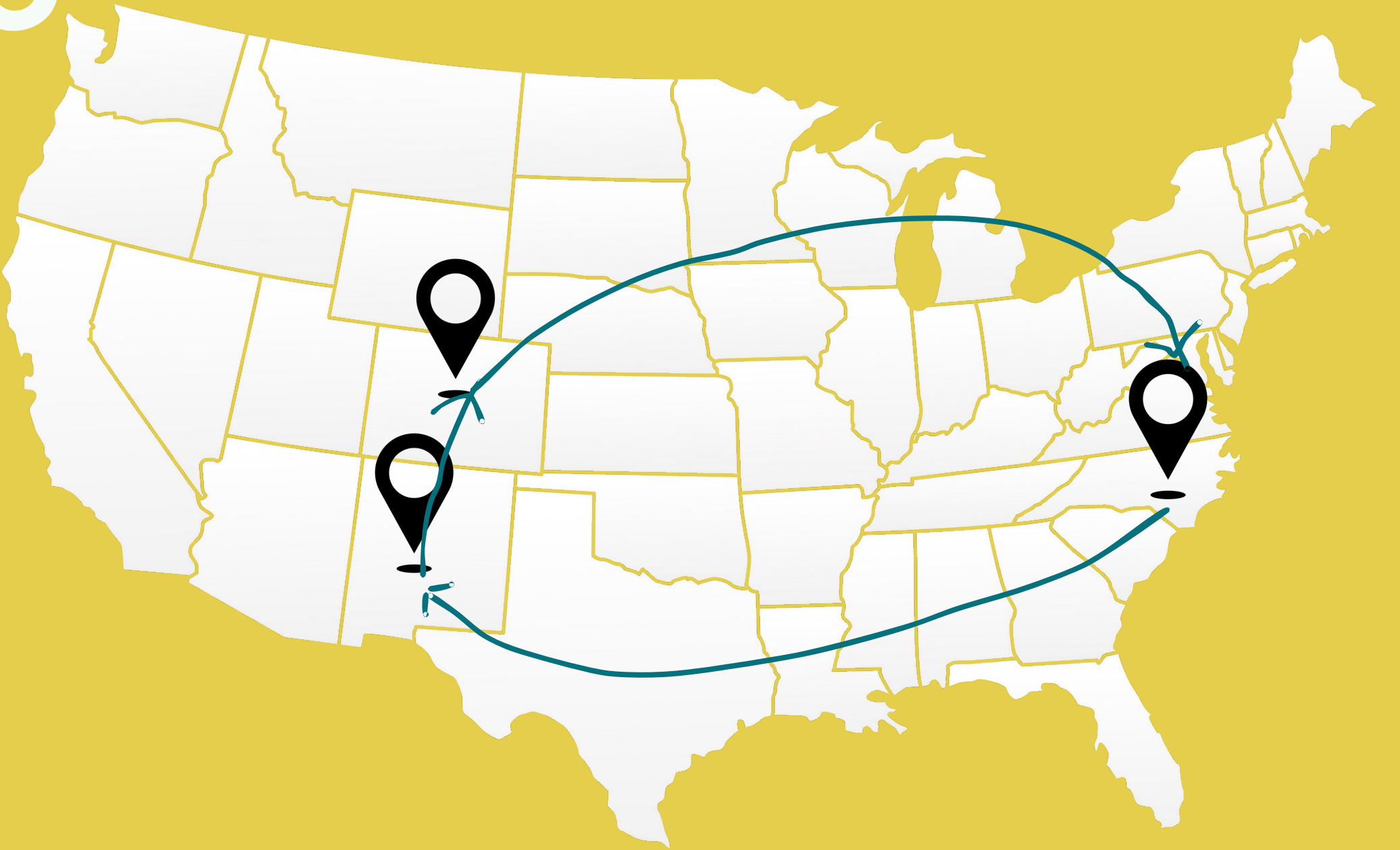
“I had no idea the breadth of opportunity available to me in New Mexico...”

-STUDENTS NAVIGATING THE JOB MARKET IN NEW MEXICO



MY BOOMERANG STORY

- 5th generation New Mexican
- Graduate of UNM's Biology Dept.
- PhD from the University of Colorado
- Post Doc at UNC - Chapel Hill
- Gone for over 9 years
- Could not find a job in NM



STEM BOOMERANG

Fostering STEM Workforce in New Mexico

Foster workforce and economic development by connecting job seekers, both near and far, with the NM employer ecosystem.



**Hiring +
Outreach Events**



**Promotion of
NM Jobs**



**Employer
Support**

WHAT HAVE WE LEARNED

STUDENTS ARE NOT PREPARED TO ENTER THE JOB MARKET

1. Narrow exposure to diverse career opportunities
2. Inadequate access to work-based learning and internships leading to a skills gap
3. Insufficient awareness of the robust STEM employer ecosystem in New Mexico



INTERNSHIP CO-OP MODEL

INVESTING IN FUTURE STEM WORKFORCE IN NEW MEXICO - TODAY

Empowering Employers, Equipping Students: A holistic approach, supporting both employers and students/professionals to bridge the gap between talent and opportunity.

Interns

- Hands-on technical experience
- Exposure to robust career opportunities in NM

Employers

- Support for developing effective internship programs
- Legalities and compliance
- Funding



GAP ANALYSIS

TALENT PIPELINE DEVELOPMENT FOR SPACE CAREERS

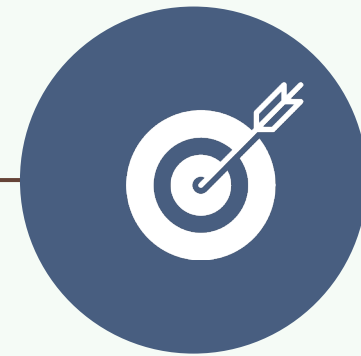


NEW SPACE
NEXUS



STEM Education Programs

Ecosystem map of 'informal' STEM Education Programs (outside traditional classroom setting) and career readiness support for NM students (K-grad)



Labor Market Analysis

Data trends in STEM careers and job-ready technical skills (skills gap)



Workforce Readiness

Employer-directed workforce pipeline challenges, insight for talent recruitment strategies

GAP ANALYSIS FINDINGS (EARLY)

STEM EDUCATION PROGRAMS

- 49 programs identified across the state
- Broad programming -> limited industry specificity
- Co-localized with institute of higher ed
- Program info not easy to navigate

**No clear connectivity
between programs**

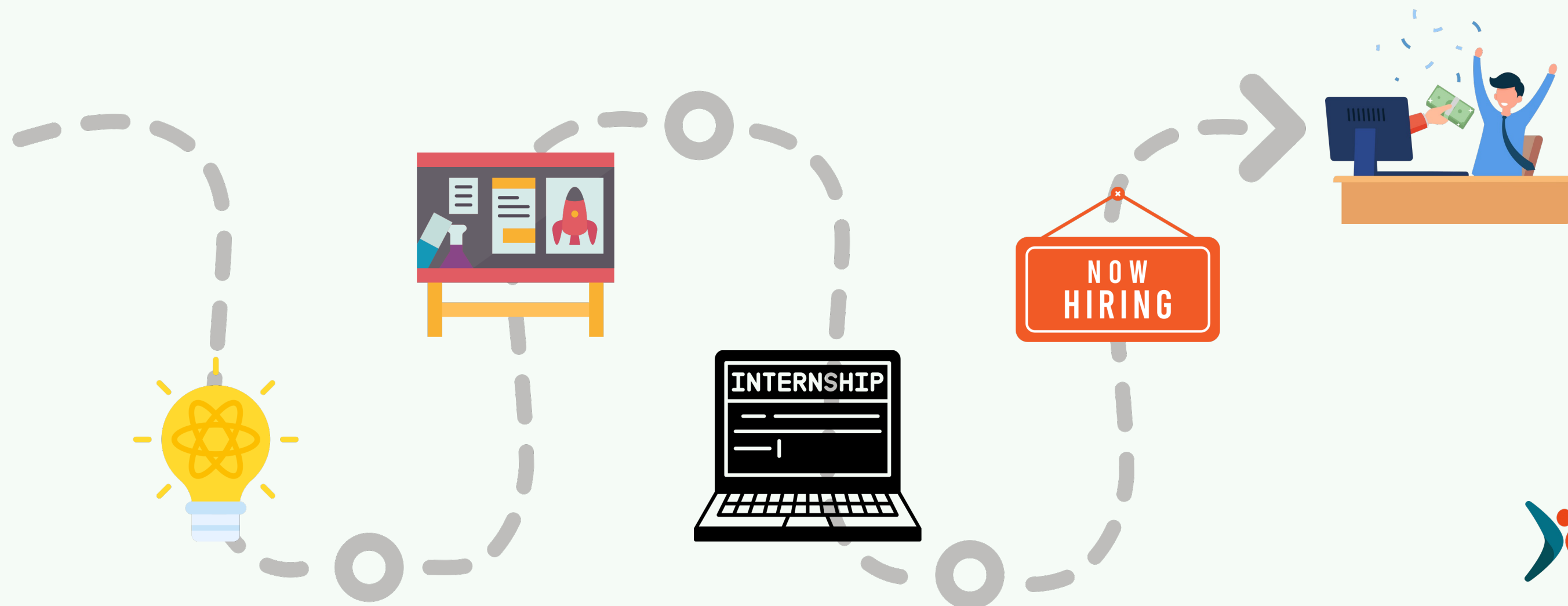


CONNECTING THE DOTS

STEM Innovation Network

Regional Hubs - Bridging the Gap for Learners

Provide access and connection for students to gain STEM career exposure & interest, curriculum, advancement, career readiness and, ultimately, a great job in NM.



CONTACT US

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