

1 SENATE BILL 347

2 **56TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2023**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO HIGHER EDUCATION; CREATING THE SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY,
12 ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS PLUS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR
13 TEACHING AND LEARNING AT NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY; MAKING AN
14 APPROPRIATION.

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

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

19 "[NEW MATERIAL] SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND
20 MATHEMATICS PLUS CENTER OF EXCELLENCE FOR TEACHING AND
21 LEARNING.--

22 A. The "science, technology, engineering and
23 mathematics plus center of excellence for teaching and
24 learning" is established at New Mexico state university to work
25 toward developing and promoting innovation in the science,

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1 technology, engineering and mathematics fields.

2 B. The science, technology, engineering and
3 mathematics plus center of excellence for teaching and learning
4 shall:

5 (1) research and promote best practices for
6 science, technology, engineering and mathematics plus
7 statewide, with specific emphasis on ensuring educational
8 opportunities for low-income individuals, Native Americans,
9 English language learners and students with disabilities;

10 (2) align and expand science, technology,
11 engineering and mathematics plus educational opportunities with
12 the needs of the workforce and promote economic development;

13 (3) study and promote science, technology,
14 engineering and mathematics plus and the relationship between
15 education, career options and social mobility;

16 (4) collect and maintain data and statistics
17 on the science, technology, engineering and mathematics plus
18 programs and activities and the science, technology,
19 engineering and mathematics workforce in the state to determine
20 the success of science, technology, engineering and mathematics
21 programs and to inform educational and employment needs in the
22 future; and

23 (5) promote enhanced teaching of science,
24 technology, engineering and mathematics through proven,
25 experiential hands-on learning techniques, including teacher

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1 training programs in innovative science, technology,
2 engineering and mathematics education approaches.

3 C. The science, technology, engineering and
4 mathematics plus center of excellence for teaching and learning
5 shall:

6 (1) foster excellence in the noted fields
7 through collaboration among leaders of the state's agencies,
8 higher education institutions, business sector, national
9 laboratories and community organizations; and

10 (2) have the long-term goal of transforming
11 science, technology, engineering and mathematics education in
12 New Mexico to increase the numbers of science, technology,
13 engineering and mathematics-ready graduates across all
14 educational levels to staff high-wage employment.

15 D. The science, technology, engineering and
16 mathematics plus center of excellence for teaching and learning
17 shall collaborate, and may provide funding when relevant, with
18 partners throughout the state to implement teaching and
19 learning programs on a regional basis consistent with the
20 demography, available infrastructure and social needs of each
21 region.

22 E. The science, technology, engineering and
23 mathematics plus center of excellence for teaching and learning
24 shall:

25 (1) actively seek, and may accept, public and

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1 private funding for the center's work;

2 (2) establish short- and long-term goals for
3 job creation, business creation and private equity investment
4 outcomes of the center's work;

5 (3) beginning in 2023, report annually to the
6 higher education department and the legislative finance
7 committee on the center's goals and achievements; and

8 (4) be appropriately staffed to provide
9 essential functions to evaluate, scale, replicate and
10 promulgate its programs and achieve long-term goals, including
11 leadership and strategic direction, database creation and
12 management with statewide access, social media presence and
13 mailings and evaluation of the efficacy of education programs
14 fostered and promulgated by the science, technology,
15 engineering and mathematics plus center of excellence for
16 teaching and learning."

17 **SECTION 2. APPROPRIATION.--**Five million dollars
18 (\$5,000,000) is appropriated from the general fund to the board
19 of regents of New Mexico state university for expenditure in
20 fiscal years 2024 through 2026 to hire full-time staff for the
21 science, technology, engineering and mathematics plus center of
22 excellence for teaching and learning and for operational
23 expenses. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at
24 the end of fiscal year 2026 shall revert to the general fund.