

1 SENATE BILL 107

2 **57TH LEGISLATURE - STATE OF NEW MEXICO - FIRST SESSION, 2025**

3 INTRODUCED BY

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5 and Anita Gonzales and Natalie Figueroa
6
7

8 FOR THE LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE
9

10 AN ACT

11 RELATING TO EDUCATION; ESTABLISHING THE CENTER OF EXCELLENCE AT
12 NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY FOR INNOVATION IN SCIENCE,
13 TECHNOLOGY, ENGINEERING AND MATHEMATICS; PROVIDING THAT ALL
14 CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE ADMINISTER PROGRAMS PROVIDED FOR BY LAW;
15 CREATING THE STEM INNOVATION NETWORK; DEFINING TERMS;
16 DESIGNATING THE PRINCIPAL HUB OF THE NETWORK; ASSIGNING DUTIES
17 TO THE PRINCIPAL HUB AND STEERING COMMITTEE; PROVIDING FOR THE
18 SELECTION OF REGIONAL AND TRIBAL HUBS; REQUIRING ANNUAL
19 REPORTING; MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.
20

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

22 SECTION 1. Section 21-1-27.11 NMSA 1978 (being Laws 2019,
23 Chapter 60, Section 1) is amended to read:

24 "21-1-27.11. CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE.--

25 A. A "center of excellence" is established at the

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1 following higher education institutions:

2 (1) the New Mexico institute of mining and
3 technology to work toward developing and promoting innovation
4 in and expanding cybersecurity industries;

5 (2) New Mexico state university to work toward
6 developing and promoting innovation in and expanding
7 sustainable agricultural industries;

8 (3) San Juan college to work toward developing
9 and promoting innovation in and expanding sustainable and
10 renewable energy industries; ~~and~~

11 (4) the university of New Mexico health
12 sciences center-affiliated entity, the New Mexico bioscience
13 authority, to continue its work toward developing, promoting
14 innovation in and expanding the bioscience industry in New
15 Mexico; and

16 (5) New Mexico state university to work toward
17 innovations in science, technology, engineering and
18 mathematics.

19 B. Each center of excellence provided for in
20 Subsection A of this section shall foster excellence in the
21 noted field through:

22 (1) collaboration among leaders of the state's
23 agencies, higher education institutions, business sector,
24 national laboratories and community organizations;

25 (2) the development by those leaders of

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1 strategies to accomplish that aim; ~~and~~
2 (3) the execution of those strategies; and
3 (4) the administration of programs provided
4 for by law.

5 C. Each center of excellence provided for in
6 Subsection A of this section shall:
7 (1) actively seek, and may accept, public and
8 private funding for its work;
9 (2) establish short- and long-term goals for
10 job creation, business creation and private equity investment
11 outcomes of its work; and
12 (3) beginning in 2020, report annually to the
13 higher education department and the legislative finance
14 committee on its goals and achievements."

15 SECTION 2. [NEW MATERIAL] STEM INNOVATION NETWORK
16 CREATED--DUTIES OF PRINCIPAL HUB AND STEERING COMMITTEE--
17 SELECTION OF REGIONAL AND TRIBAL HUBS--REPORTING.--

18 A. As used in this section, "network" means the
19 STEM innovation network.
20 B. The "STEM innovation network" is created to
21 foster access to education and employment opportunities in the
22 fields of science, technology, engineering and mathematics to
23 students and educators. The network shall:
24 (1) consist of no more than eight regional
25 hubs and a tribal hub for each of the federally recognized

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1 Indian tribes, nations and pueblos in the state;

2 (2) identify, connect and strengthen existing
3 educational programs in the fields of science, technology,
4 engineering and mathematics;

5 (3) support the provision of additional in-
6 school and out-of-school educational opportunities for
7 students;

8 (4) coordinate with employers statewide to
9 expand career opportunities for students and ensure that
10 students are equipped for employment in the fields of science,
11 technology, engineering and mathematics; and

12 (5) connect educators with professional
13 development opportunities.

14 C. The center of excellence at New Mexico state
15 university for innovation in science, technology, engineering
16 and mathematics is the principal hub for the network and shall
17 manage the network and provide technical assistance for the
18 regional and tribal hubs and staff for the steering committee.

19 D. A regional or tribal hub shall be a local
20 government or a tribal or private organization or a consortium
21 of public and private organizations that serves as a point of
22 contact for public schools, post-secondary educational
23 institutions, employers and science, technology, engineering or
24 mathematics industry representatives and connects students with
25 educational and employment opportunities.

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1 E. The steering committee consists of:

2 (1) the secretary of public education or the
3 secretary's designee;

4 (2) the secretary of higher education or the
5 secretary's designee;

6 (3) the secretary of workforce solutions or
7 the secretary's designee;

8 (4) the secretary of early childhood education
9 and care or the secretary's designee;

10 (5) the secretary of Indian affairs or the
11 secretary's designee;

12 (6) a representative of the mathematics and
13 science advisory council in the mathematics and science bureau
14 of the public education department selected by the council;

15 (7) a member of the faculty at a state public
16 post-secondary educational institution with expertise in
17 science, technology, engineering and mathematics appointed by
18 the secretary of higher education;

19 (8) a person with business or professional
20 experience in an industry related to science, technology,
21 engineering and mathematics appointed by the secretary of
22 workforce solutions; and

23 (9) the following persons appointed by the
24 secretary of public education:

25 (a) a public school teacher;

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1 (b) a person with expertise in providing
2 out-of-school programming and services related to science,
3 technology, engineering and mathematics;

4 (c) a charter school administrator or
5 teacher;

6 (d) a representative of the Navajo
7 Nation with expertise in education;

8 (e) a representative of the Mescalero
9 Apache Tribe with expertise in education;

10 (f) a representative of the Jicarilla
11 Apache Nation with expertise in education; and

12 (g) a representative of the all pueblo
13 council of governors with expertise in education.

14 F. The steering committee shall meet at least once
15 each quarter of the fiscal year and adopt an annual work plan
16 and program requirements and priorities. Members of the
17 steering committee who are not public employees or otherwise
18 reimbursed for per diem and mileage expenses are entitled to
19 receive per diem and mileage reimbursement at the same rate as
20 state employees in accordance with the Per Diem and Mileage Act
21 and shall not receive any other compensation, perquisite or
22 allowance.

23 G. Selection of the regional and tribal hubs shall
24 be as follows:

25 (1) the steering committee shall approve an

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1 application process for regional and tribal hubs that includes
2 criteria for eligibility;

3 (2) the principal hub shall administer the
4 application process and make reasonable efforts to conduct
5 outreach to Indian tribes, nations and pueblos, conduct an
6 initial review of applications received and make
7 recommendations to the steering committee for selection; and

8 (3) the steering committee shall select the
9 regional and tribal hubs from the applications submitted.

10 H. The principal hub shall prepare an annual report
11 regarding the development of the network, goals and
12 achievements of the regional and tribal hubs and the activities
13 of the steering committee. A copy of the report shall be
14 provided to the governor and legislature.

15 SECTION 3. APPROPRIATION.--Six million dollars
16 (\$6,000,000) is appropriated from the public education reform
17 fund to the public education department for expenditure in
18 fiscal years 2026 through 2028 to support the STEM innovation
19 network. Any unexpended or unencumbered balance remaining at
20 the end of fiscal year 2028 shall revert to the public
21 education reform fund.