



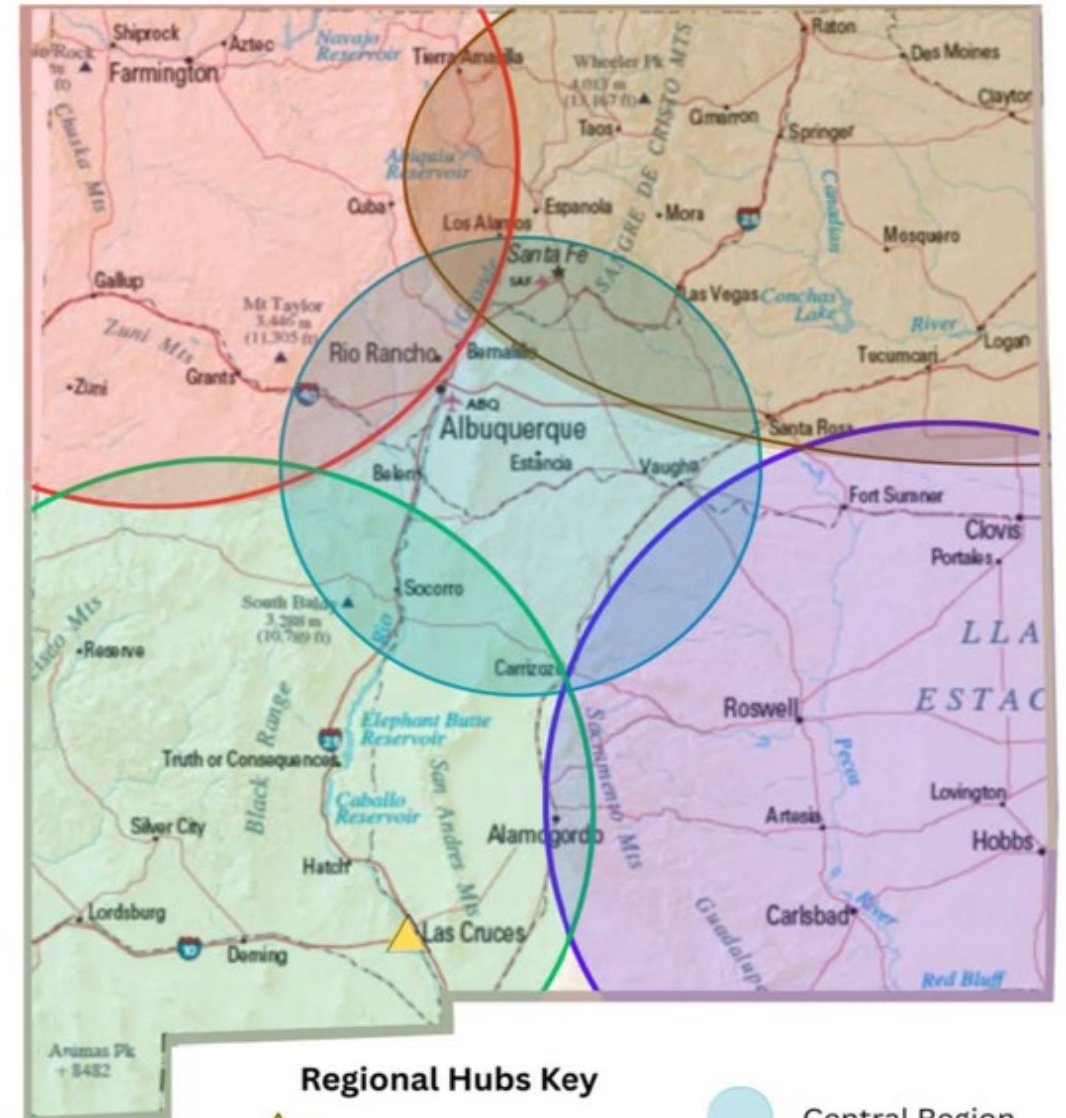
LESC, October 16, 2026

Presenter	Role / Organization
Clint Weckerly	Northeast Hub Director at NMHU
Crystal Gallegos	CTE Director, Jemez Mountain
Ryan Labbe	General Manager, Tyler Technology New Mexico
Dr. Soyara Gollop	Director Education Initiatives, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center

Regional Hub Model

Region and Fiscal Backbone Organizations

- **Northeast- NM Highlands University**
 - Clint Weckerly
- **Northwest- San Juan College**
 - Alyssa Wagner / Robert Butteweg / Veronica Evans
- **Central- Explora**
 - Amon Haruta
- **Southeast- REC 6 / Future Innovators / ENMU-Roswell**
 - Devon Fite and Heidi Franks (ENMU-R)
- **Southwest- WNMU/ SWREC**
 - Tanya Rivers
- **Principal Hub- NMSU**
 - Wanda Tamez, Patricia Carden, Erika Acosta



Regional Hubs Key



Principal Hub



Northwest Region



Northeast Region



Central Region

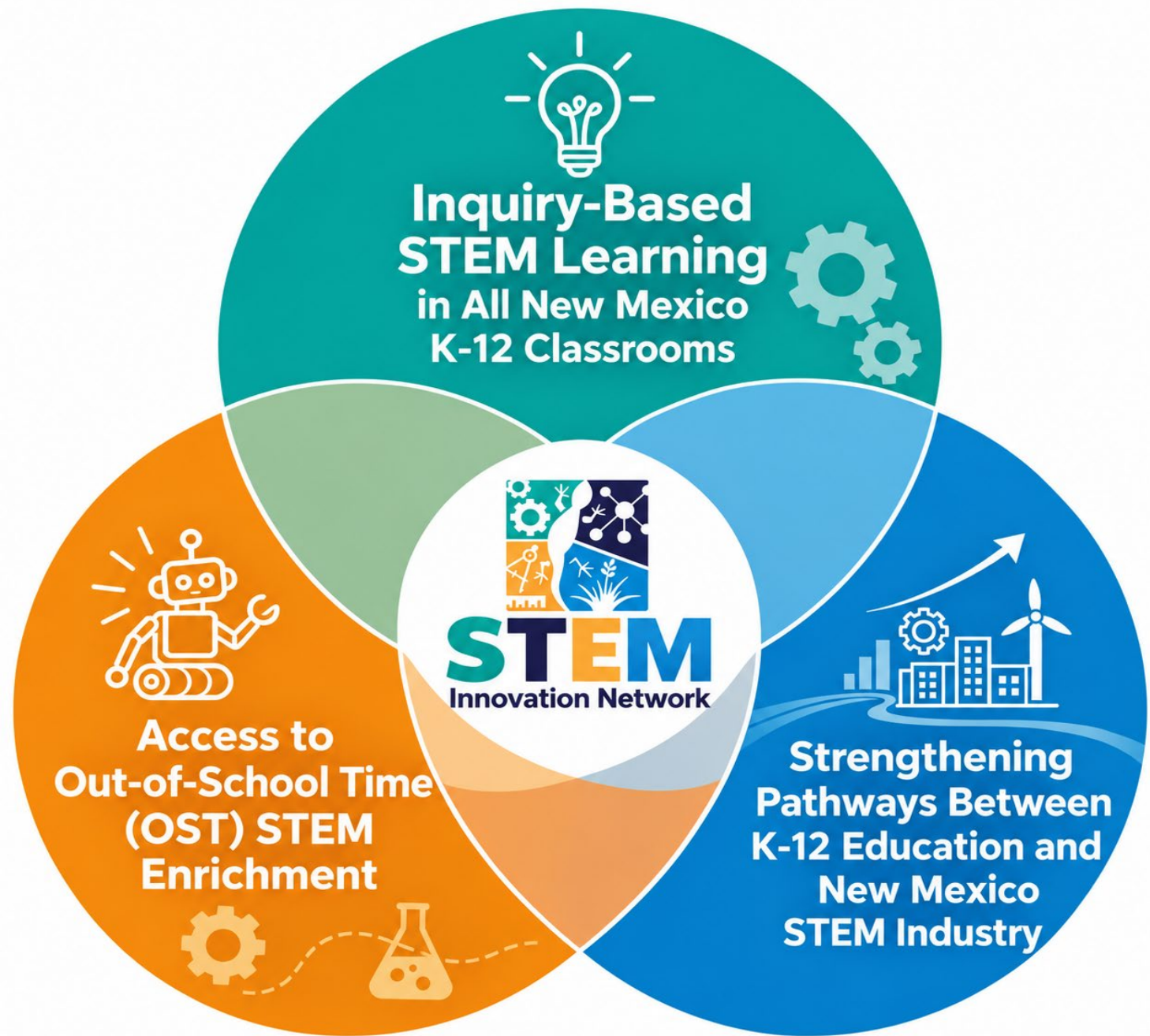


Southwest Region



Southeast Region

Three Connected Network Priorities



1. Inquiry-Based STEM Learning in All New Mexico K-12 Classrooms – Math Focus

Support school implementation of inquiry-based, hands-on STEM instruction that promotes active, student-centered learning to build critical thinking and problem-solving while respecting students' cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Partner Organizations have collaborated to support ongoing **Math and STEM professional Learning** for over **700 teachers in Year 1** with plans to support over **1000 teachers in Year 2**. Partners include...

- UNM Project ECHO
- LANL Foundation
- Math and Science Bureau
- Los Alamos Math and Science Academy
- Mathematically Connected Communities (MC²)
- Teach Plus
- Cooperative Education Services (CES)
- Integrow / Math Recovery



2. Access to Out-of-School Time (OST) STEM Enrichment

The network expands interest-based OST STEM programs - such as robotics, coding, and agriculture - especially in rural areas to improve student engagement and build strong STEM identities.

OST Organized Through:

- ❑ Expanding access to **STEM Competitions**
- ❑ Out of School Time (OST) Learning - Grant writing for **21st CCLC and HB2OST** funding to expand to rural communities
- ❑ **STEM Summer Camps**
- ❑ Supporting **Family STEM Events**

Note: \$1,690,000 was secured for Years 2-4 to support STEM OST programs in underserved areas.



3. Strengthening Pathways between K-12 Education and New Mexico Industry

The network is building partnerships to align K–12 education with New Mexico’s STEM industries and coordinating CTE and work-Based learning. Key efforts include increasing internships, pre-apprenticeships, industry engagement, and regional partnerships to prepare students for high-demand STEM careers.

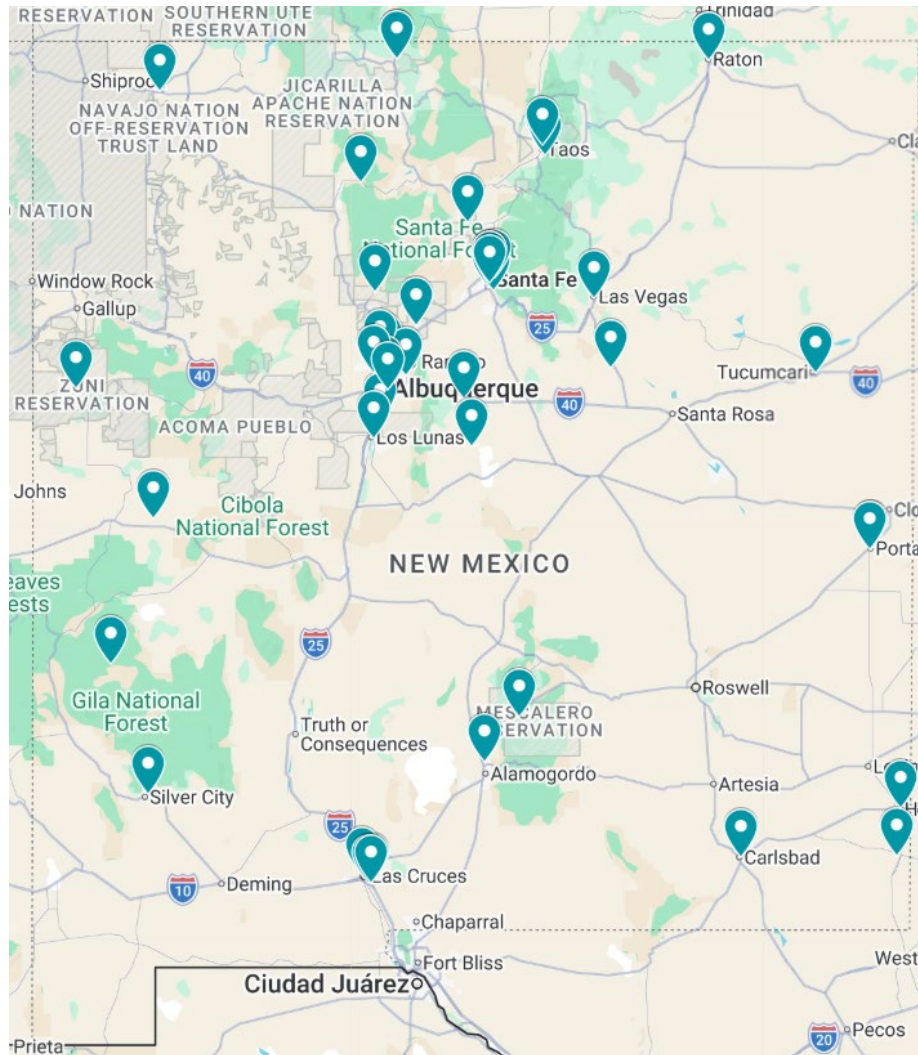
Bridging education and Industry through:

- ❑ Industry mentorship in STEM competitions
- ❑ Partnership with 32 rural school districts, CES, Higher Ed Institutions, and Industry to coordinate and create cross-district access to CTE pathways (dual-credit, pre-apprenticeships, job shadowing)
- ❑ Career exploration camps
- ❑ Building a statewide **Industry Playbook** to help industry and schools develop meaningful relationships and informed pathways

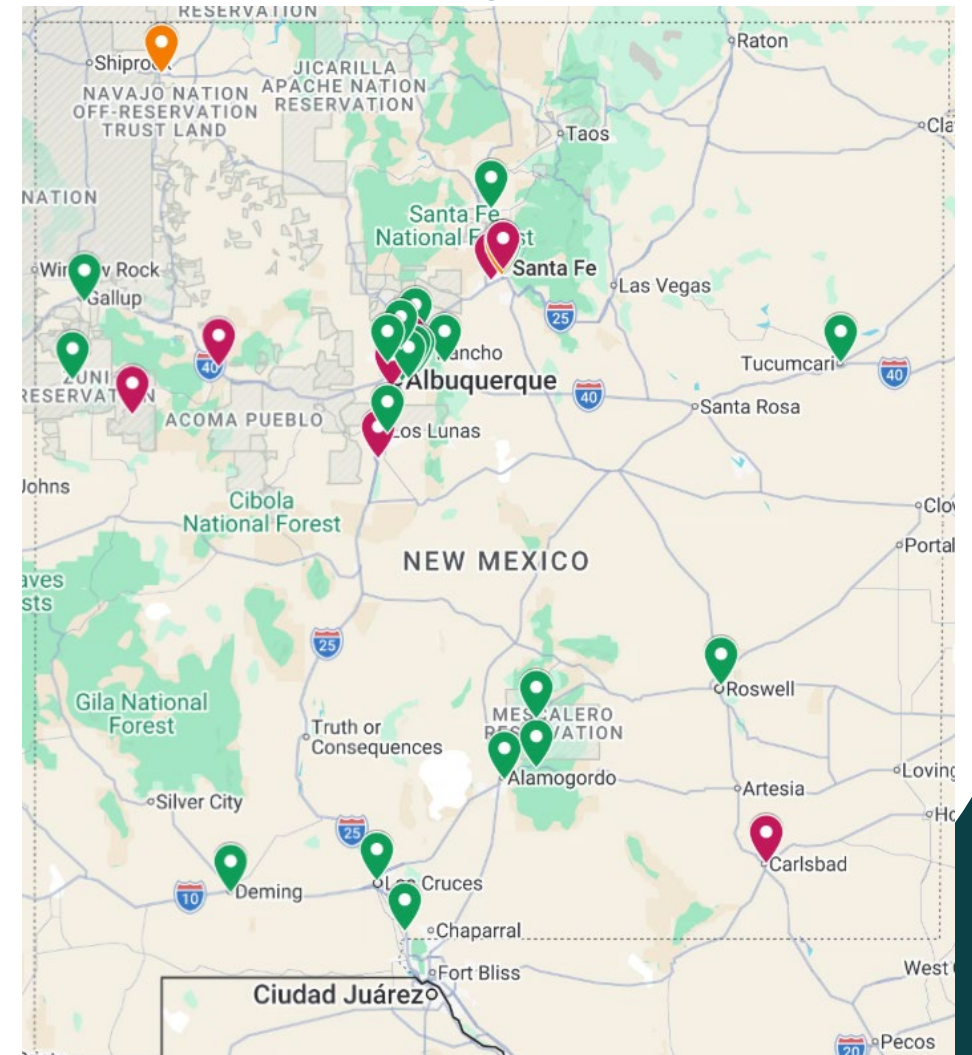


Creating Access across New Mexico

2026-2027 Mini-Grant Applications



2027 Governor's STEM Challenge
Participating Schools



Year 1 Funding Impact (August 2025-June 2026)

Category	Year 1 Result
Legislative Appropriation	\$3 million
Hubs Established	1 Principal Hub + 5 Regional Hubs
Mini-grant Funding Awarded	\$274,000
Students Reached (mini-grants)	2,200+ Students
Educators Supported (mini-grants)	375+ Educators
Educator Professional Learning (Overall)	700+ Educators
Expansion of Summer OST Opportunities	700+ Students
Statewide Regional Events	70+ Events
Legislative Funds Invested	~95% of the Appropriation
New Funding Secured to Expand STEM OST Programs in Years 2-4.	\$1,690,000

How do the Network and Mini-grants support local initiatives.

**Crystal Gallegos
CTE Director
Jemez Mountain Schools**

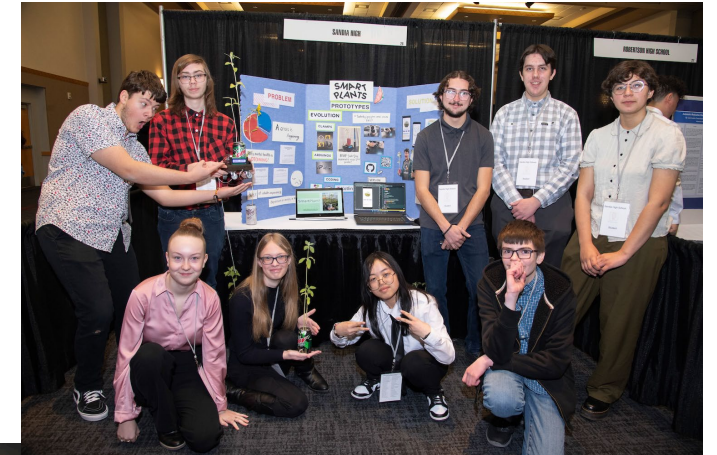
Connecting industry with education in New Mexico

The value of STEM learning to employers
and economic opportunity in our state

Ryan Labbe
General Manager, Tyler Technologies – New Mexico
LANL Foundation Board of Directors Executive Committee Secretary
NM STEM Innovation Network Executive Committee
NM Governor's STEM Challenge Steering Committee Chair Emeritus
LESC, October 16, 2026



NEW MEXICO GOVERNOR'S
STEM CHALLENGE



STEM already plays a critical role in New Mexico's economy

24.7%

**New Mexico workforce
in STEM occupations**

Nearly one in four workers

New Mexico employers need STEM talent today—and are preparing for tomorrow.

57% higher average wages

NM's target science and technology industries \$90,599 compared with \$57,520 statewide

The skills employers need

Speaking specifically about the Governor's STEM Challenge in 2020, the LANL director Thom Mason said:
"The STEM Challenge's team-based approach ... is a microcosm of what we do at the Laboratory every day."

Problem solving

Define a need and test whether a solution works.

Using evidence

Use data, recognize uncertainty, revise an approach.

Teamwork

Share responsibility and work through disagreements.

Communication

Explain a decision and respond to questions.

The Governor's STEM Challenge connects learning with industry



Students develop a solution to a real-world problem.

Industry partners provide mentorship and ask questions as judges.

Teams explain their work and demonstrate their solution.

2024 impact report: 350 students from 42 high schools statewide

Tucumcari students are already patent holders!

8 students

Named inventors on a granted U.S. patent from an NM Governor's STEM Challenge project

Microsoft fully funded the patent.
The project was also selected for an MIT Lemelson STEM event.



A recent Tucumcari update also reports another provisional patent application and students pursuing pre-veterinary studies at NMSU, pre-medical studies and engineering at UNM.

The Network is making these connections more consistent

Regional coordination

Help schools find employers and give employers a clear way to participate throughout the year.

Access across the state

Address travel, materials, and teacher time where those barriers limit participation.

Evidence of progress

Track who participates, repeat engagement, and connections to education or training.

Project ECHO for Education and the New Mexico STEM Innovation Network

Soraya Gollop PhD, Director of Education Initiatives
ECHO Institute, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center



Math is behind where literacy was in 2022

Statewide proficiency, grades 3 to 8 (NM-MSSA)

	2022	2025	Change
Language arts	34%	44%	+10 pts
Mathematics	26%	27%	+1 pt

Source: Longitudinal Student Assessment Results, LESC staff, October 15, 2025

Change requires implementation support

10–15%

of educators apply what they learn from traditional, one-and-done PD



Ongoing support makes it stick

When educators learn alongside peers, with time for feedback and reflection.

THE CHALLENGE

Traditional PD pulls teachers out of their classrooms. They rarely get to try new strategies and come back for support.

ECHO weaves learning into teachers' ongoing classroom practice



1. Learn

Evidence-based practices, learned over time



2. Try

Apply strategies with their own students



3. Reflect

Return to share, get feedback, and refine

Sources: Joyce & Showers, 2002; Darling-Hammond et al., 2017

Why Project ECHO?

Knowledge alone doesn't change practice

ECHO bridges the gap between knowing and doing, so evidence-based practices take hold in real classrooms.

Educators everywhere benefit



Subject matter and peer expertise



An ongoing community of practice



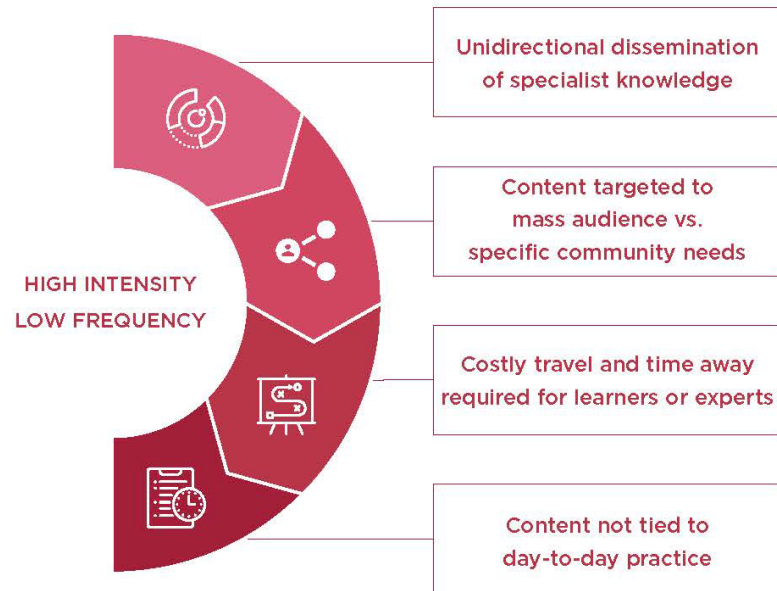
Real problems, solved together



Project ECHO as an Implementation Model

TRADITIONAL TRAINING

Seminars, Workshops, Webinars, Asynchronous Courses



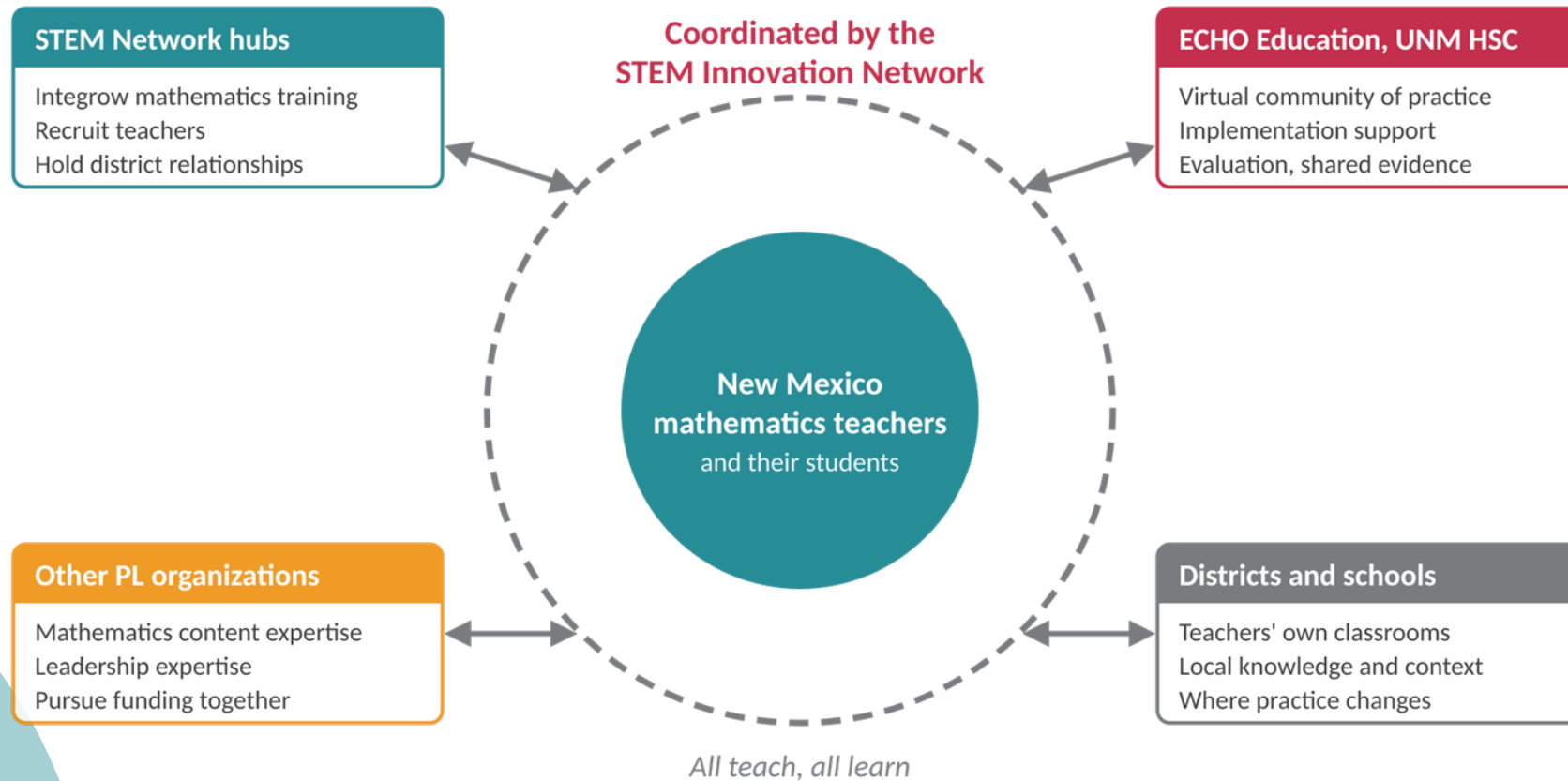
ECHO MODEL

All Teach / All Learn



UNM Health Sciences Center since 2003; education programs since 2017; 89 New Mexico school districts and 4,782 education professionals reached.

A system approach to improving math instruction in New Mexico



The current pilot: implementation support for Integrow math instruction trained teachers

Who

- 30 to 40 New Mexico teachers who completed the Network's four-day Integrow mathematics training

What

- A virtual community of practice: six 75-minute sessions, every two weeks, over ten weeks

When

- Sessions October through December 2026; report to the Network by January 30, 2027

Expertise

- MC²S, STEM Innovation Network Principal Hub mathematics staff

Platform, model, evaluation

- Project ECHO for Education, UNM Health Sciences Center

Our vision for changing STEM Education in New Mexico



No teacher who takes training goes back to the classroom alone



Implementation support following every training the Network offers



A statewide community of mathematics teachers that outlasts any one grant



Professional learning organizations coordinated through the Network, each doing what it does best



**Training changes what teachers
know. Support changes what
teachers do.**



Legislative support needed for the STEM Innovation Network

- ❑ **Recurring** Legislative Line Item for the STEM Innovation Network

Thank you!

