

Aligning New Mexico's Education Ecosystem to Power the Innovation Economy

Advancing learning through collaboration, coordination, alignment and a common vision

Science, Technology and Telecommunications Interim Committee

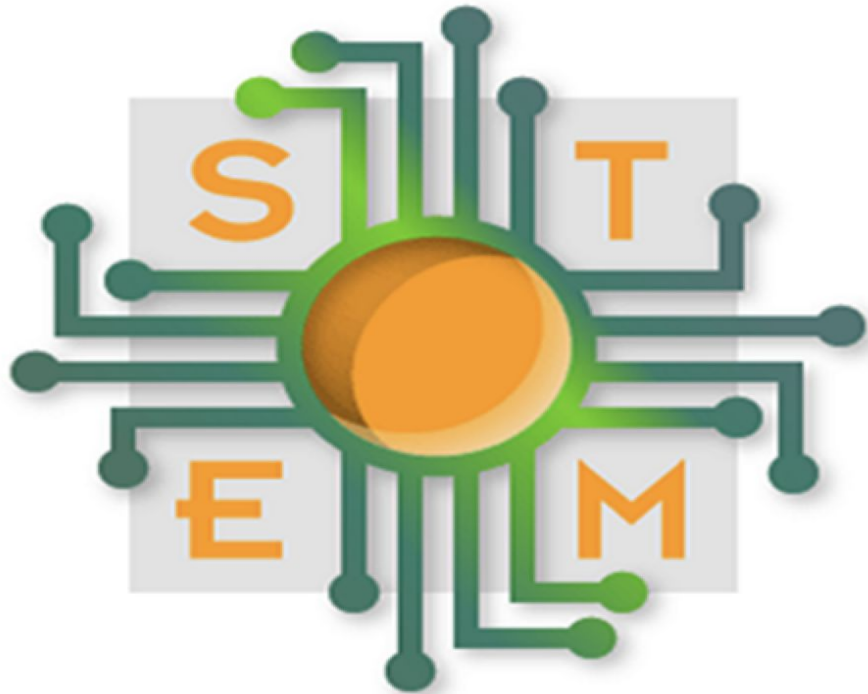
NM Legislature

October 7, 2026

Los Alamos, NM

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New Mexico Partnership for Mathematics & Science Education



NMPMSE

Our vision: To promote coherence and quality of STEM education initiatives through dissemination of information, **networking, coordination, and collaboration** so that New Mexico will be a leader in STEM education.

Non-profit Organization Founded in 1992

Board of Directors

Selena Connealy, NM EPSCoR

Pat Carden, STEM Innovation Network

Tom Gruszka, Mathematics Education, WNMU, retired

Jonathan Haack, Teacher

Zach Leonard, Math and Science Academy, LANL

Heather Summers, Project Echo

Paige Prescott, Computer Science Alliance

Kersti Tyson, LANL Foundation

Rick Scott, Mathematics Education, NMSU, retired

Vanessa Svihla, Learning Scientist, UNM

Hy Tran, Sandia, retired

Ling Faith-Heuertz, NM MESA

TK O'Geary, TKO Performance Group

Christy Krennek, SF Public Schools

Kevin Dilly, National Museum of Nuclear Science and History

Introduction and Vision

Goal for today:

Build infrastructure to connect education, workforce, industry, and government to advance New Mexico's innovation ecosystem.

Vision for an Innovation-Ready Education System

Innovative Learners Development

The system fosters innovative thinkers and lifelong learners ready to lead NM's 21st Century economy and society forward.

Community and Industry Connections

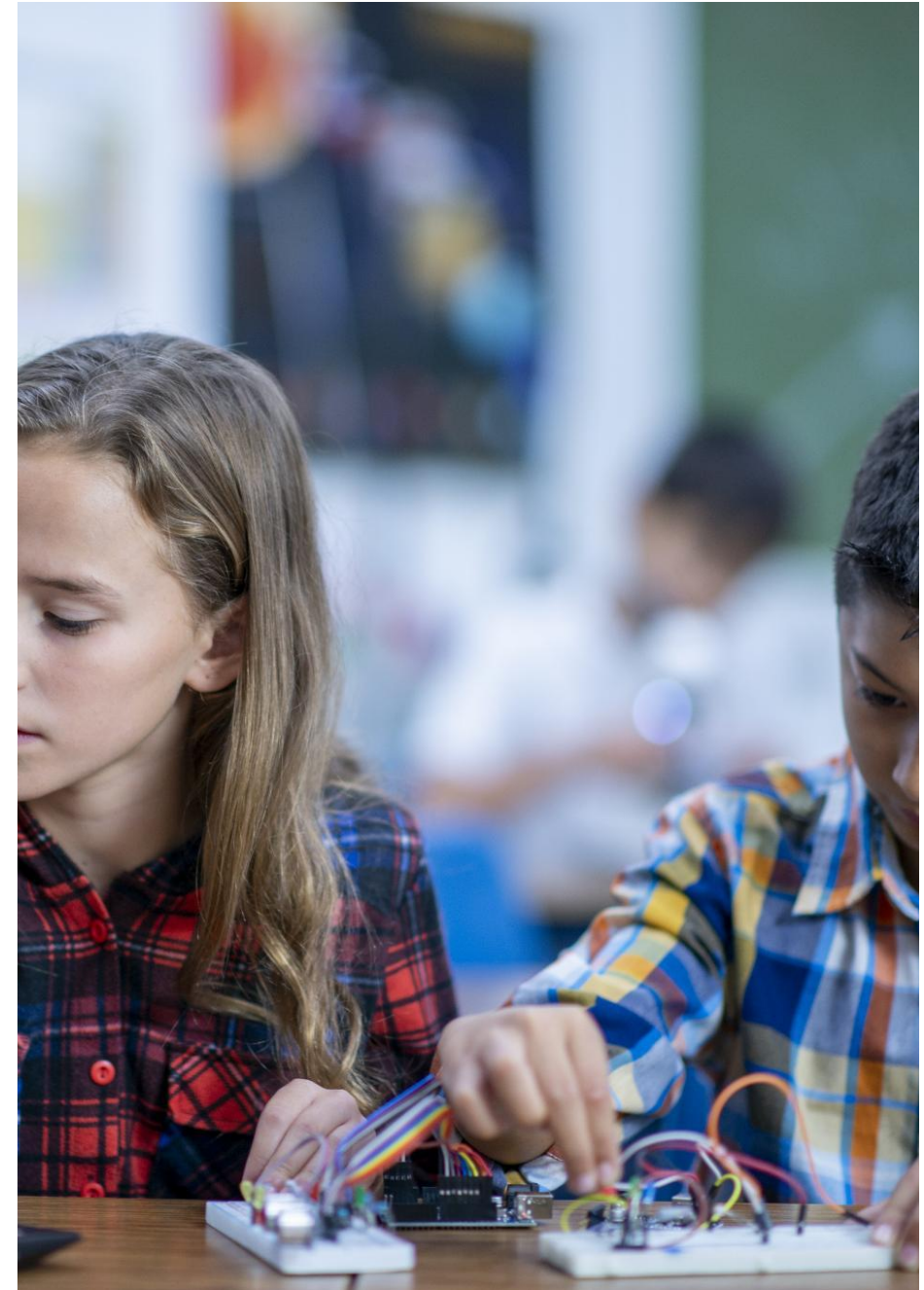
Schools connect closely with communities, industries, and higher education to enhance learning relevance and coherence.

Equity in Innovation Education

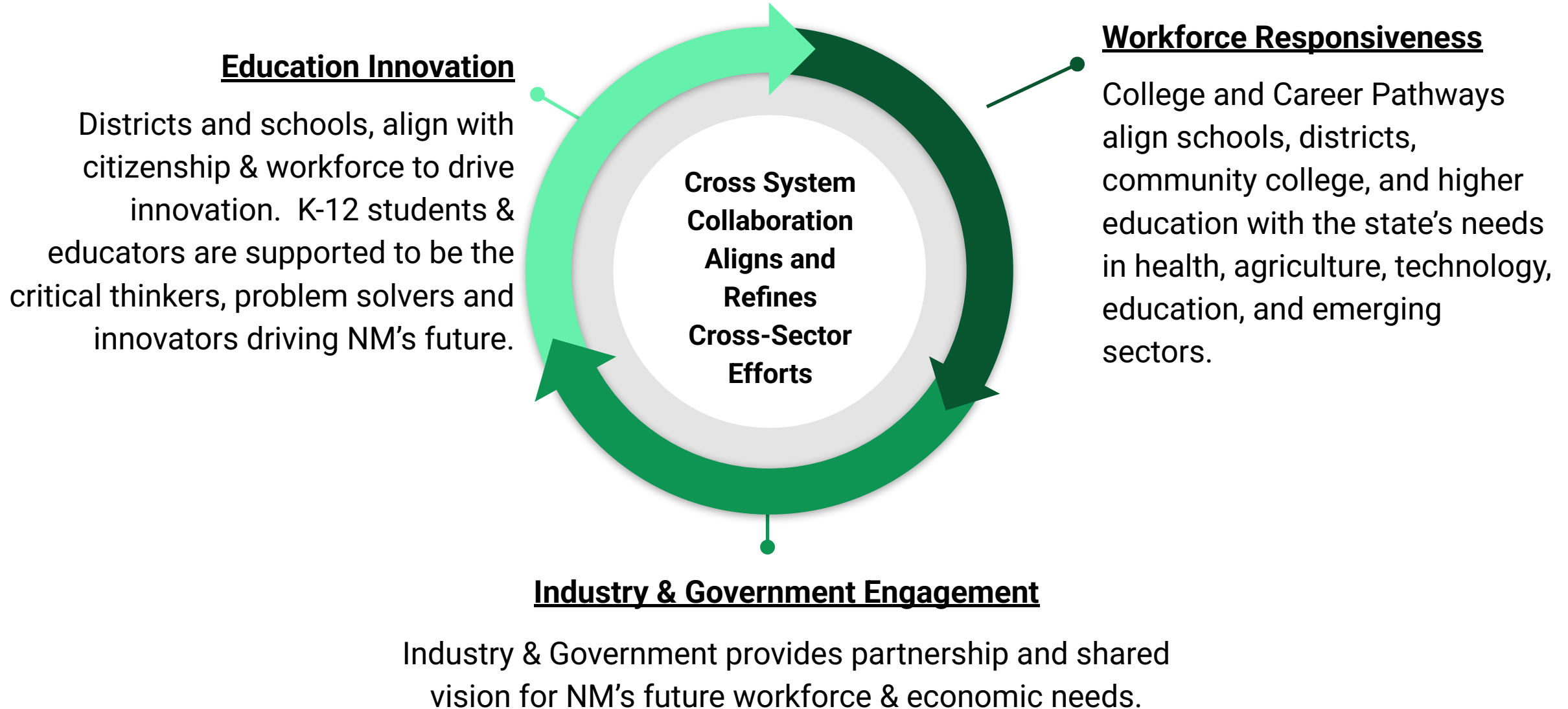
Every day, every student has access to high-quality inquiry based learning opportunities that lead to innovation careers; grounded in rich cultural and linguistic place based backgrounds.

Human-Centered AI & Technology Use

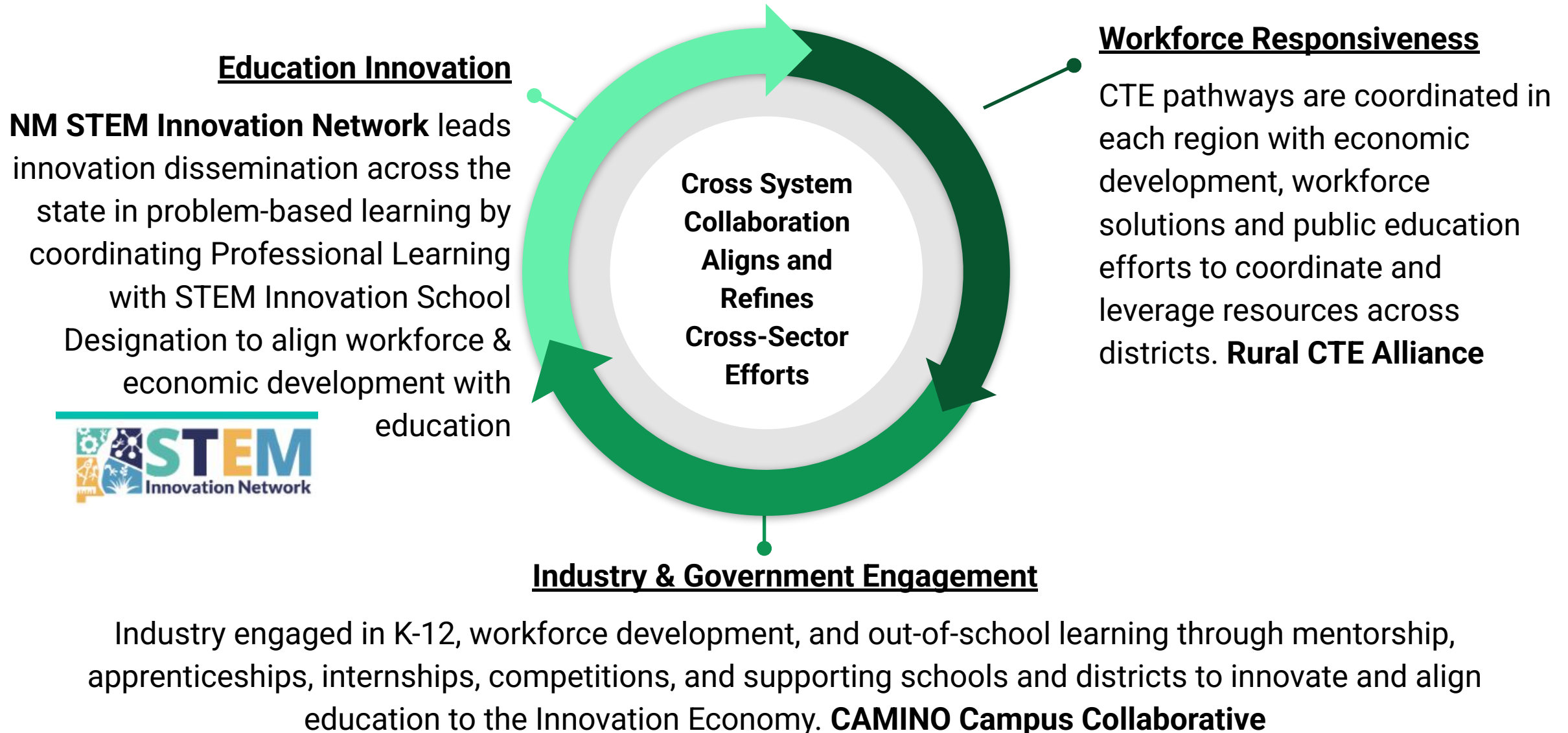
The vision prioritizes ethical and critical thinking skills over passive AI tool dependence.



Collaboration, Coordination and Communication Across Systems



Collaboration, Coordination and Communication Examples Across Systems



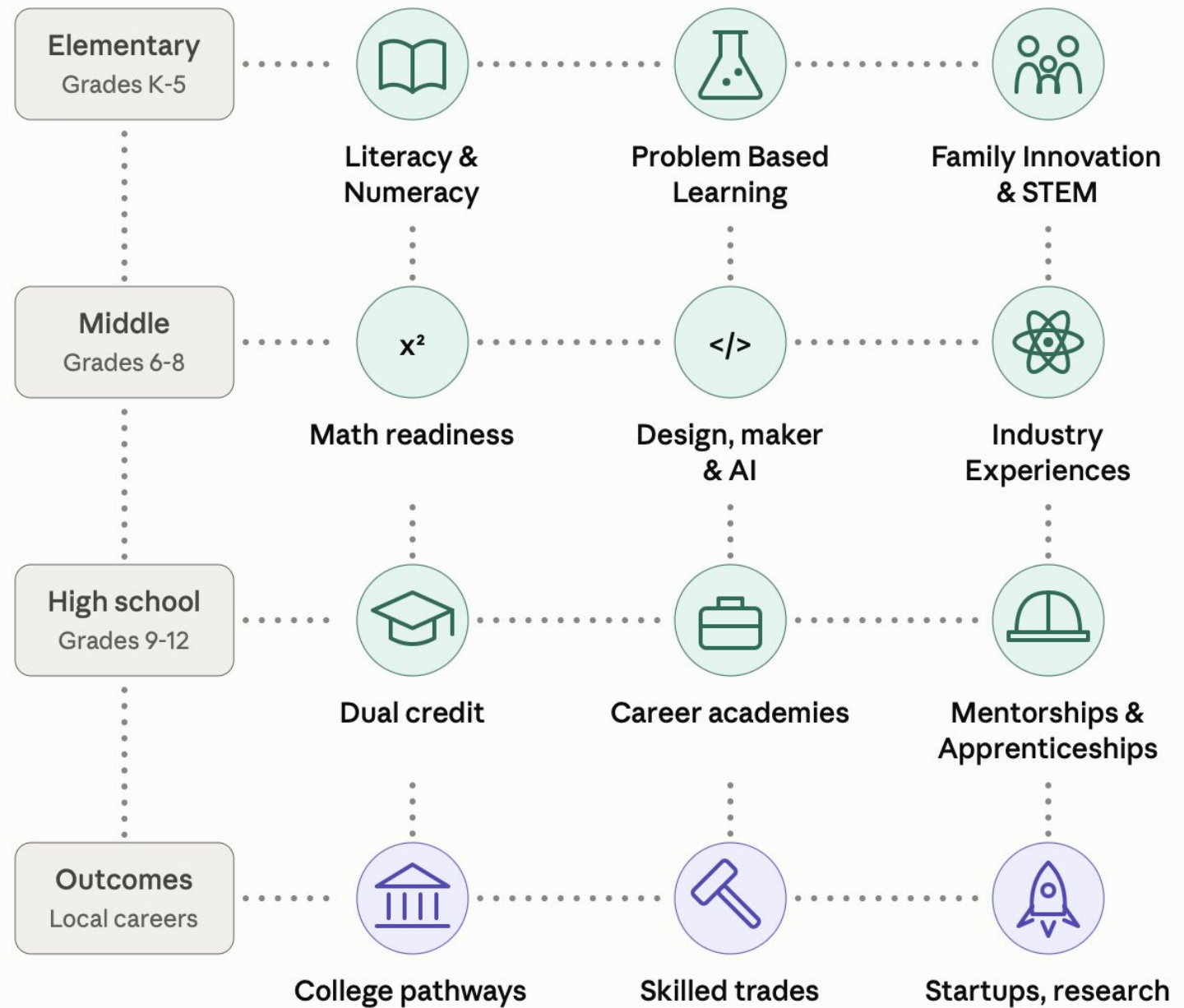
Reflection Moment

- With what you just heard – what did you hear?
- What connections come to mind with the work you are doing in this committee?
- Pause and take some notes. We are going to delve into each of these sections.

Education Innovation

Transform K-12 Students'
Learning Through Real-World
Innovation

Designing an Innovative Education System that spurs NM's Innovation Economy



Real-World, Project-Based, and Systems-Oriented Learning

Authentic, Collaborative Challenges

Students engage in **real-world problems** that require teamwork, design thinking, and multidisciplinary integration for practical solutions. Industry partners and teachers working together

Balanced Experiential Learning

Learning combines **hands-on investigation** with reflection, theory, and critical analysis for deep understanding.

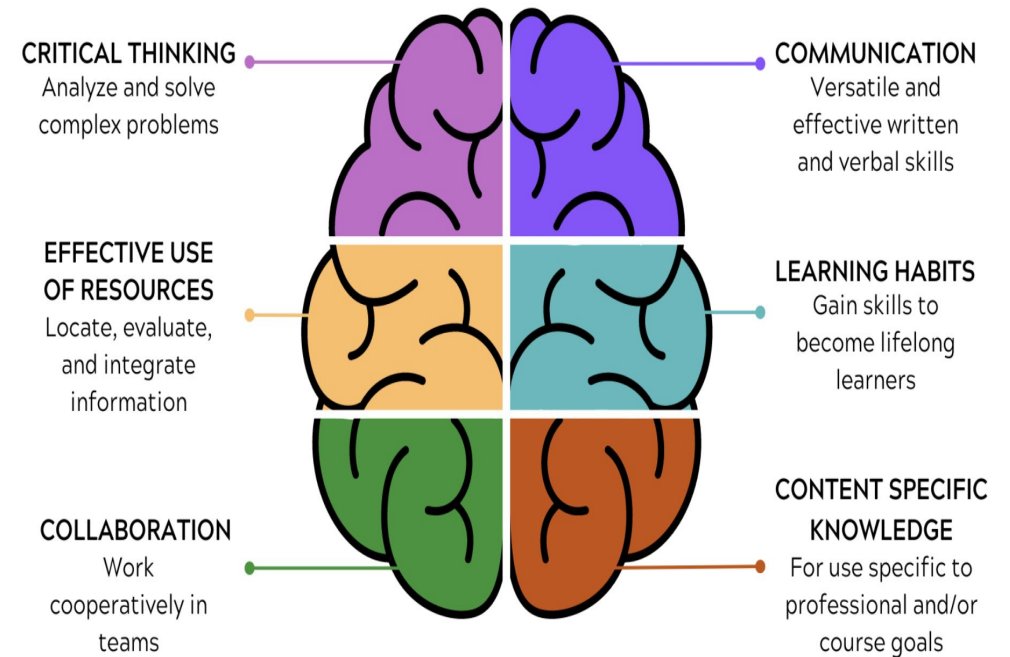
Innovative Learning Frameworks

Project Based Learning and K–12 inquiry pathways guide students from knowledge to creation over time.

AI Literacy and Flexible Schedules

Emphasizing AI understanding, skepticism, and flexible time for **exploration** supports innovation-ready learners.

Learning Outcomes of PBL



Education Innovation

Schools as Innovation Hubs

Expanding Exploration, Access, and STEM Identity

Schools as Innovation Hubs

Reimagine schools as centers for **exploration**, **discovery**, and **creativity** with flexible schedules and community partnerships.

Equitable STEM Access

Ensure all students, including those from underserved communities, have **access** to formal and informal learning opportunities.

Expanded STEM Experiences

Provide after-school, summer, and community-based programs to deepen student **engagement** in Innovation and STEM beyond the school day.

Strengthening STEM Identity

Build students' identity by exposing them to diverse role models, mentors, and a coherent learning journey that leads to participation in an innovation economy.



Education Innovation

Invest in Teachers as
Innovation Leaders

Preparing, Supporting, and Retaining Innovative Educators

Alignment with Innovation Workforce Demands & Opportunities

Teacher preparation, recruitment, and retention align with modern Innovation education needs and workforce demands.

Professional Learning and Support

Continuous job-embedded professional learning to support teachers' growth and career advancement.

Industry Experience Integration

Internships and externships help teachers apply real-world STEM Innovation practices to classroom instruction.

Innovation Leadership Investment

Investing in teachers as innovation leaders builds instructional capacity and improves retention.



Workforce Responsiveness

Build a Seamless Talent
Development Pipeline

Aligned Pathways from Education to Careers

Seamless Talent Development

Students benefit from clear pathways connecting education to meaningful, high-demand careers across multiple institutions.

Early Career Awareness

Career awareness begins early with job shadowing, internships, dual credit, and industry certifications through middle and high school.

Career-Connected Learning

Provides portable, valuable learning milestones supporting continuous upskilling and job transitions.

Responsive Workforce Intelligence

Ongoing labor market analysis helps education systems adapt to emerging industries and skill demands rapidly.



Workforce Responsiveness

Create Community and
Industry Partnerships

Shared Responsibility for Workforce and Innovation

Community-Industry Partnerships

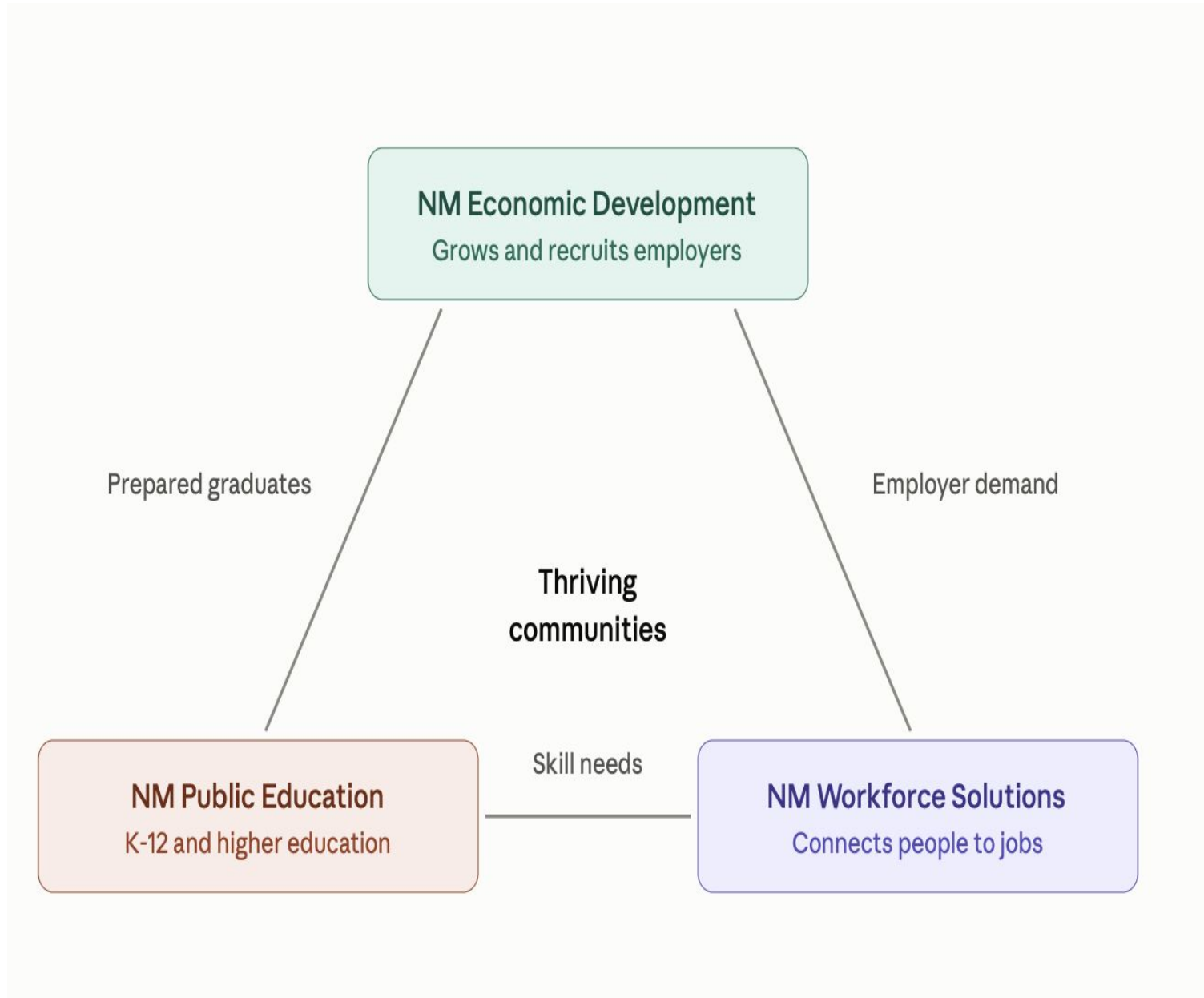
Strong partnerships between education, industry, foundations, and communities build a workforce ready for innovation.

Industry Engagement Strategies

Engagement includes direct investment, internships, mentoring, and collaboration on curriculum design for real-world skills.

Regional Coordination and Support

Regional Innovation hubs (STEM IN NM) coordinate schools, employers, and organizations to meet local workforce and innovation needs. Students gain access to access to tools, makerspaces and other OST programming through the innovation hubs



Industry & Government Engagement

Align Policy, Governance,
and Investment

Leadership, Funding, and Accountability to Build Infrastructure for NM's Innovation Economy

Cross-Agency Leadership

1. Establish a multi-agency Education Council to provide coordinated leadership and long-term vision for NM's Innovation Economy.
2. Increase support for the NM STEM Innovation Network to lead and coordinate education innovation dissemination.

Legislative Champions

1. Identify bipartisan legislative champions to advance policies supporting innovation and education alignment.

Proportional Funding Strategies

1. Dedicate a percentage of industry investment to education and workforce to ensure balanced and sustained growth.

Accountability Through Metrics

1. Develop shared statewide metrics to track innovation participation, teacher retention, and workforce outcomes to ensure accountability.

Thank you

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