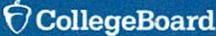


**The Advanced Placement Program  
in New Mexico**



### Who is the College Board?

- + We are a mission-driven not-for-profit organization that connects students to success and opportunity.
- + Founded in 1900 to expand access to higher education.
- + We are a membership organization with over 6,000 of the world's leading educational institutions.
- + Our organization is deeply committed to promoting excellence and equity in education.
- + Each year we help more than seven million students prepare for successful transition to college through programs and services -- including the PSAT, SAT and Advanced Placement Program.



### What is the Advanced Placement Program?

- + AP is a collaboration between motivated students, secondary schools, colleges and universities.
- + The AP Program offers 34 courses and exams.
- + Optional external assessment at the end of the course – Scoring ranges from 1-5.
- + Since 1955, the AP Program has enabled millions of students to take college-level courses and exams, and to earn college credit or placement while in high school.
- + Today, more than 18,000 schools worldwide participate in the AP Program.



### AP in New Mexico

- + Currently, New Mexico ranks 37<sup>th</sup> in the nation in AP access and achievement, with just 12% of New Mexico public school students (2,173 students) earning a score of 3+ on an AP Exam before leaving high school.
- + Because New Mexico is the first state in the nation to serve a Hispanic-majority student population, and also has the third largest percentage of American Indian students of any state, New Mexico's commitment to Advanced Placement equity and achievement will have a profound impact on the diversity of students entering and affording higher education.



## AP in New Mexico

- + Los Alamos Public Schools is one of 477 school districts in the U.S. and Canada being honored by the College Board with placement on the 4th Annual AP<sup>®</sup> District Honor Roll for increasing access to AP<sup>®</sup> course work while simultaneously maintaining or increasing the percentage of students earning scores of 3 or higher on AP Exams.
- + Last year's PSAT results in New Mexico identified more than 5,500 New Mexico students in grades 10 and 11 with strong academic readiness to succeed in one or more AP courses before they complete high school.



## AP in New Mexico

- + In some cases, these students attend schools that do not provide the specific AP courses for which the students are academically ready. In other cases, the school may be using inappropriate enrollment criteria, such as the student's prior GPA, which research has actually shown to have a low ability to predict success in AP (the correlation is only .25).
- + If New Mexico enabled each of its 5,500 students with high academic readiness to take even just one AP course for which they have demonstrated academic readiness, New Mexico would immediately outpace most states in the nation in achieving equity in access to AP coursework.



## Our Partnership

### + A Partnership between New Mexico and the College Board:

- In May 2013, we announced a \$1 million investment by the College Board that more than doubled state spending on the Advanced Placement (AP) program for high school students in New Mexico.
- In May 2014, we announced a \$733,000 investment by the College Board to fund year two of the Partnership.

### + Mutual Goals:

- We seek to support New Mexico's desire to achieve rapid gains in AP access and success, catapulting New Mexico ahead of the national average.
- The focus of 2013-14: Ensuring AP course access and participation for the diversity of NM students with high AP Potential.
- The focus of 2014-15: Additional efforts be to expand rigor and readiness for AP in grades 6-10.



## Our Partnership

### + Strategies/Tools:

- Communications and outreach to students, parents, and counselors (English, Spanish & Dine)
- PSAT/NMSQT fee subsidies
- AP course start-up program
- Professional Develop (teachers and counselors)
- AP course start-up program specific to STEM, including online AP courses
- Online PD, especially for rural teachers and students
- AP Exam fee subsidies
- Full-time, in-state initiative manager from the College Board



## Our Partnership

### + Anticipated Outcomes:

- Increase the number of New Mexico high school graduates who succeed in AP (and thus earn college credit) from 2,100 graduates to 3,500 graduates. From its current position ranked 37<sup>th</sup> in the nation, these results will catapult New Mexico ahead of the national average for Advanced Placement access and success.
- In subsequent years, New Mexico will compete directly with the top-ranked states for college readiness: Maryland, Massachusetts, New York, and Virginia, by ensuring that all students with AP Potential gain access to at least one AP course for which their PSAT scores demonstrate academic readiness, and by focusing on academic programs in grades 6-11 that prepare many more students for the rigors of AP and college.

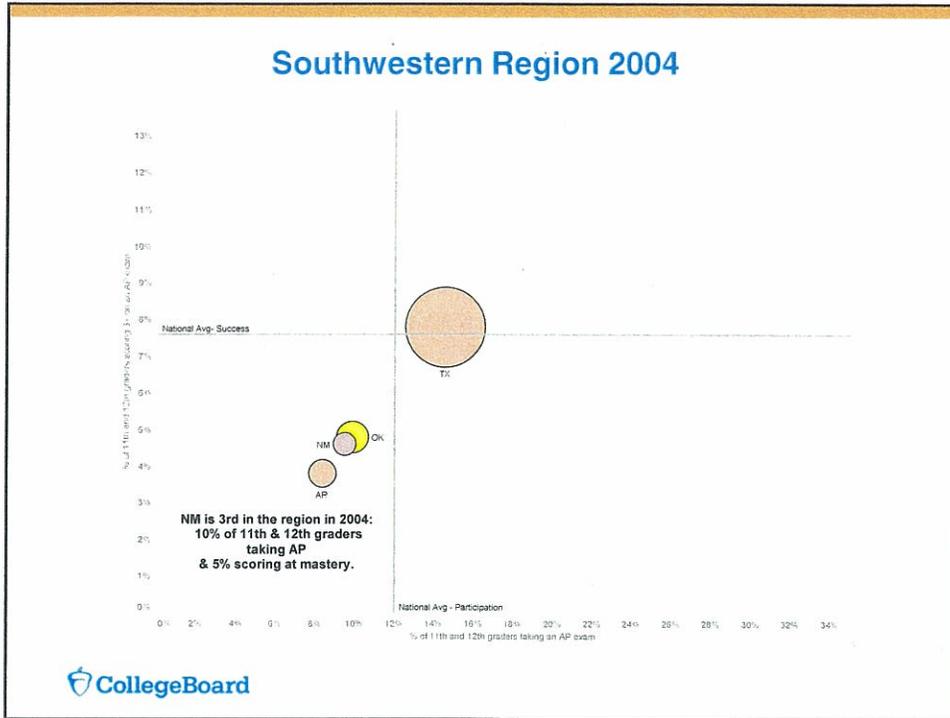


## Our Partnership

### + Anticipated Outcomes:

- New Mexico students will nearly double the amount of college savings they achieve – **from \$3.5 million in college savings this year to \$6 million in college savings** -- through AP credits recognized worldwide to reduce the cost of college and the time needed to earn a degree.
- New Mexico's higher education institutions will receive many more students prepared for the rigors of college. Research consistently shows that students exposed to AP in high school – particularly those from traditionally underserved minority and low-income families – will attend college, earn higher grades, and earn their degrees at significantly higher rates than matched peers and control groups.
- New Mexico's extra focus on AP coursework related to science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) will significantly increase the number of New Mexico high school graduates who choose to major in STEM fields and pursue STEM careers.





### How Large Districts Are Doing

District	% of NM's graduates*	2013 Tier	Growth Category
Albuquerque	25.4%	2	High Flyer
Las Cruces	7.5%	1	Inching
Gallup-Mckinley	5.1%	1	Inching
Rio Rancho	5.0%	2	High Flyer
Gadsden	4.7%	1	Slipping
Farmington	3.7%	1	Growing

\*Based on NCES estimates for the 12<sup>th</sup> grade class.

**CollegeBoard**

## What's in the Arkansas Playbook?

### Bipartisan Legislative Commitment:

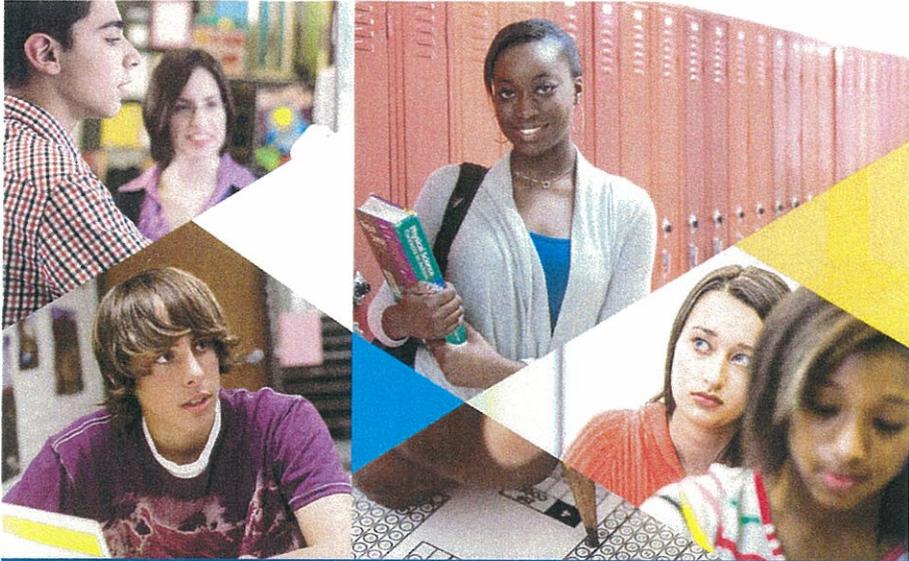
- 2000: Started with AP Credit Policy
- 2003: Require all school districts to offer at least one AP course in the four core academic areas. Response to a state school finance equity case, they see 65% of the districts in the state offer no AP.
- 2003 & 2005: Invest in all AP teachers having PD (\$450 per teacher); teachers must have the appropriate training for students to receive weighted credit.
- 2005: Full funding to take AP exams
- 2008: Partnership with NMSI to improve readiness and reward teachers.
- Throughout: state leadership has clear commitment to improving the number of Arkansans who earn college degrees. AP is one piece of this strategy.



## Policy Ideas to Deepen the Work

1. AP District Scale-Up Grants for some of the 15 who are stuck. (\$500K)
2. Rural AP Expansion: 43 of the 89 districts in the state have no AP. These districts would also compete for smaller grants (\$500K) that would allow them to get AP programs off the ground.
3. Add middle school literacy coaches in select districts that have clear AP readiness problems (\$400K)
4. Summer prep academy for two weeks at UNM for all 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students across the state who want to be sure they're ready. New Mexico could add 700-800 students with AP Potential who haven't been taking the classes (\$400K).





Michelle Cruz Arnold, Ph.D. – *Sr. Director, Gov. Relations*  
David Wakelyn, Ph.D. – *Exec. Director, Policy Development*

