

STATE OF NEW MEXICO
LEGISLATIVE EDUCATION STUDY COMMITTEE

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June 22, 2009

MEMORANDUM

TO: Legislative Education Study Committee

FR: David G. Peña

RE: STAFF SUMMARY: INNOVATE-EDUCATE NEW MEXICO

The 2009 interim workplan of the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) includes the presentation of a progress report by Innovate-Educate New Mexico (IENM).

IENM is an industry-led nonprofit organization of technology-oriented firms and government leaders that seek to encourage students to pursue careers in the engineering and science fields. The organization's board of directors includes leaders from 20 information technology firms. The goal of this coalition is to prepare young people for the demands of the high-tech labor market.

The mission of IENM is to:

- prioritize high-tech skill set for New Mexico's P-20 education by building collaborative partnerships among education, business, community, and government leaders;
- partner with STEM (science, technology, engineering and math) programs and leadership from P-20 education to advance best practices and create mentoring and internship opportunities;
- promote economic development by bringing national partners to the state to advance both STEM and New Mexico's workforce; and

- collaborate with community and government leaders to advance economic development in all regions of the state, with a focus on rural and underserved areas. Cyber infrastructure and eLearning will be a focus of IENM in an effort to create equitable access to all students.

In May 2009 nearly 700 technology industry executives, educators, and government officials from all over the country participated in the inaugural IENM conference in Albuquerque. IENM created this event to support the ongoing strategy of improving STEM education in New Mexico. The conference focused on issues related to technology and the impact it has on the lives of New Mexico students. Some of the topics discussed during the IENM conference included:

- Using Technology in Daily Instruction;
- Enhancing Education Through Technology Stimulus Package;
- eLearning with Emerging Technologies;
- Developing an Online Career-Technical Program of Study; and
- Measuring Quality in the Online Classroom.

IENM New Mexico is a testing ground for the rest of the nation in facing the challenges and demands of a knowledge-based economy. According to a recent IENM news release, New Mexico will serve as a national model that delivers a systematic approach to improving engineering and science education by applying best practices in a coordinated and methodical way. New Mexico seems to be a good locale for this effort because of the state's diverse demographic challenges, the resources of the Mathematics and Science Bureau at the Public Education Department, the current shortage of mathematics and science teachers, and the projected need for nearly 100 additional mathematics teachers to meet increased mathematics graduation requirements for the class of 2013.

Presenter

For this presentation, Mr. Jami Grindatto, Manager of Corporate and Government Affairs, Intel, will review the ongoing goals and objectives of IENM as it relates to STEM education, particularly in New Mexico. Mr. Grindatto will also explain how IENM will foster public-private partnerships that address the workforce challenges of a knowledge-based economy.