

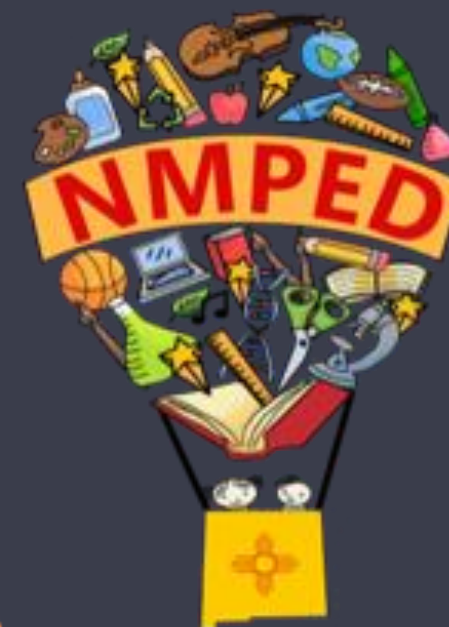
Presentation for the Legislative Education Study Committee

College and Career Readiness Bureau: Innovation Zones and High School Transformation

Amanda DeBell, Deputy Secretary
Teaching, Learning and Innovation

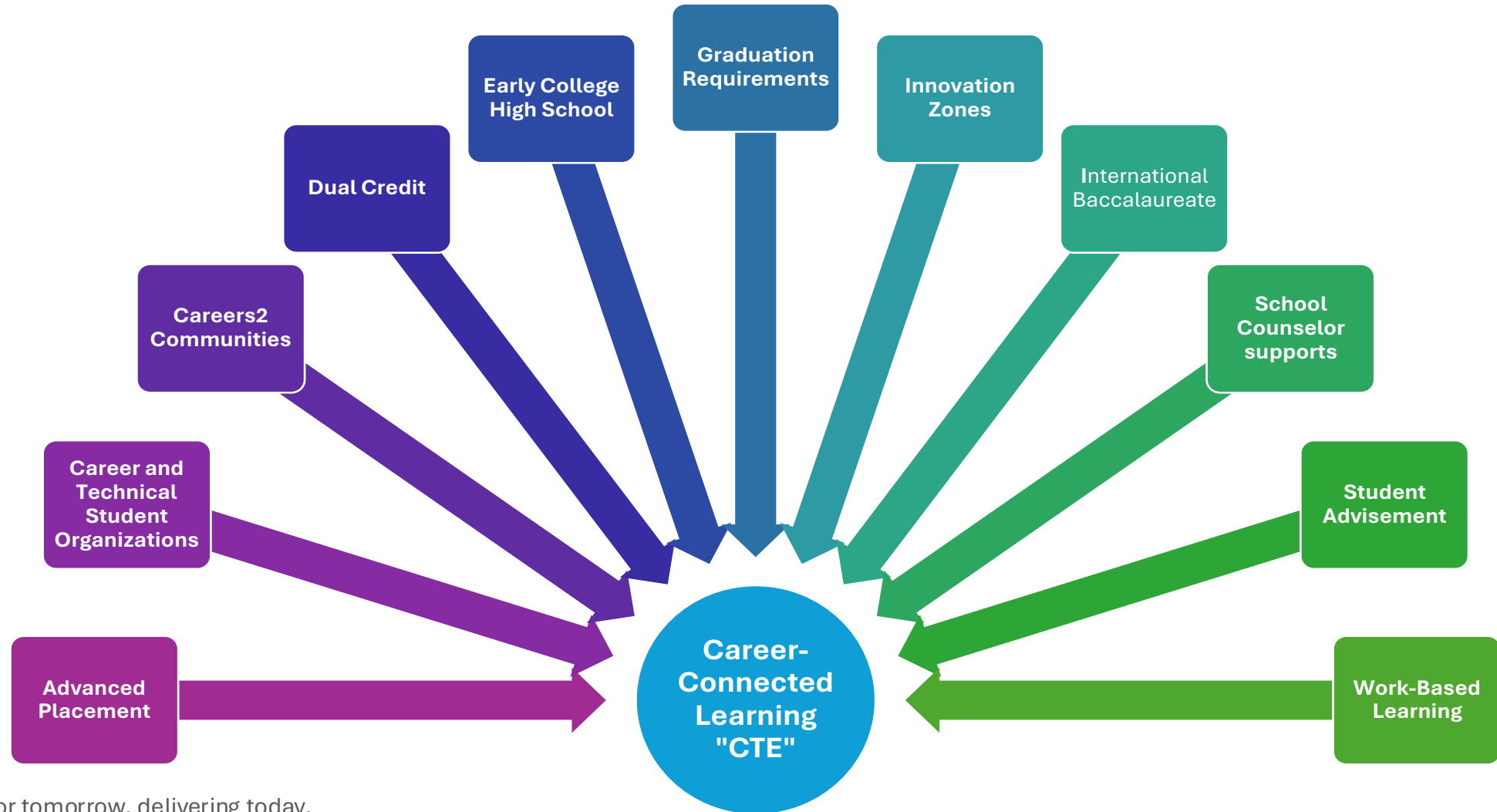
December 18, 2024

Investing for tomorrow, delivering today.

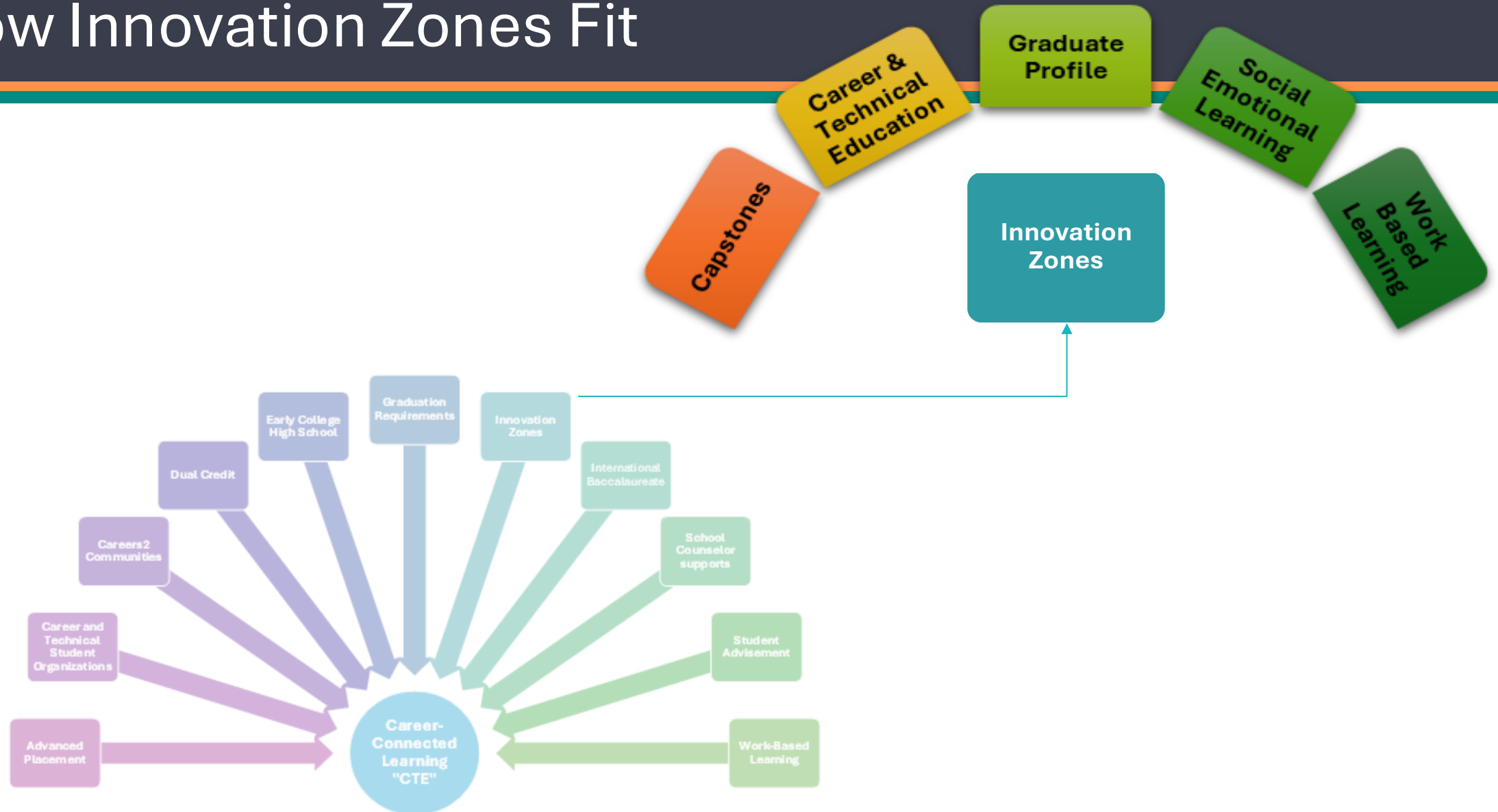


*A Presentation by the
New Mexico Public
Education Department*

College and Career Readiness Bureau – Who We Are and What We Do



College and Career Readiness Bureau – How Innovation Zones Fit



What Are Innovation Zones?

Innovation Zone (IZ) schools identify and reduce barriers to college and career readiness among historically underserved student populations.

IZ sites systematically implement coordinated strategies, driven by a locally-created graduate profile to:

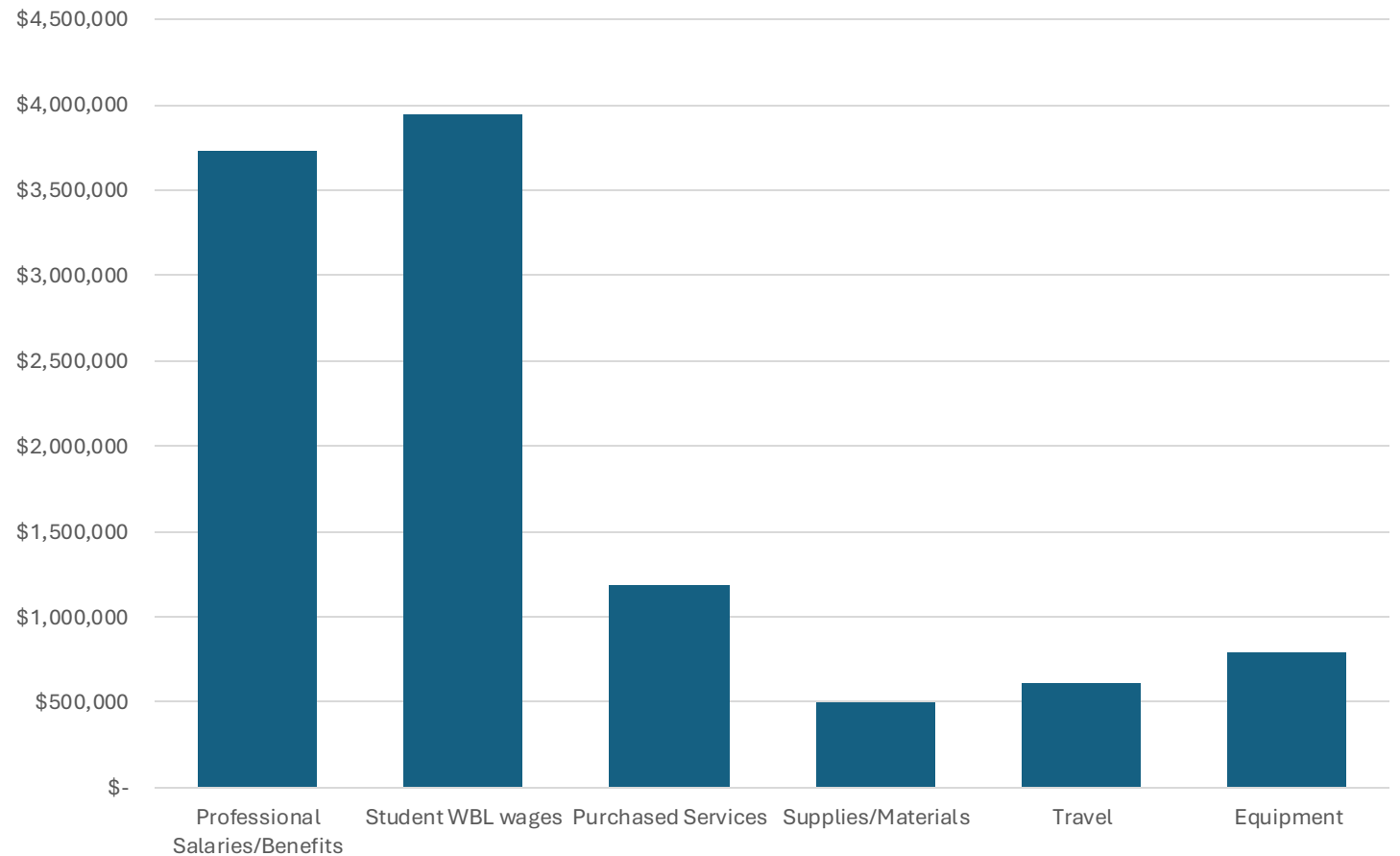
- Reduce gaps in graduation and attendance rates.
- Increase participation in work-based learning, community capstone projects, CTE programs of study and their related components.

"We facilitate real-life experiences outside the classroom, ensuring the educational journey honors (the students') diverse backgrounds while equipping them with practical, real-world skills."

Innovation Zone Pilot Program Funding

- Innovation Zones have been funded since FY23.
 - FY23 = \$5.7 million
 - FY24 = \$12.6 million
 - FY25 = \$14 million
- Program funds are allocated to flowthrough grants and contractor support.

School Innovation Zone Budgets
2024-2025



Innovation Zone Sites

- IZ Tribally-Controlled School
- IZ Charter School
- IZ Schools & Districts
- County boundary

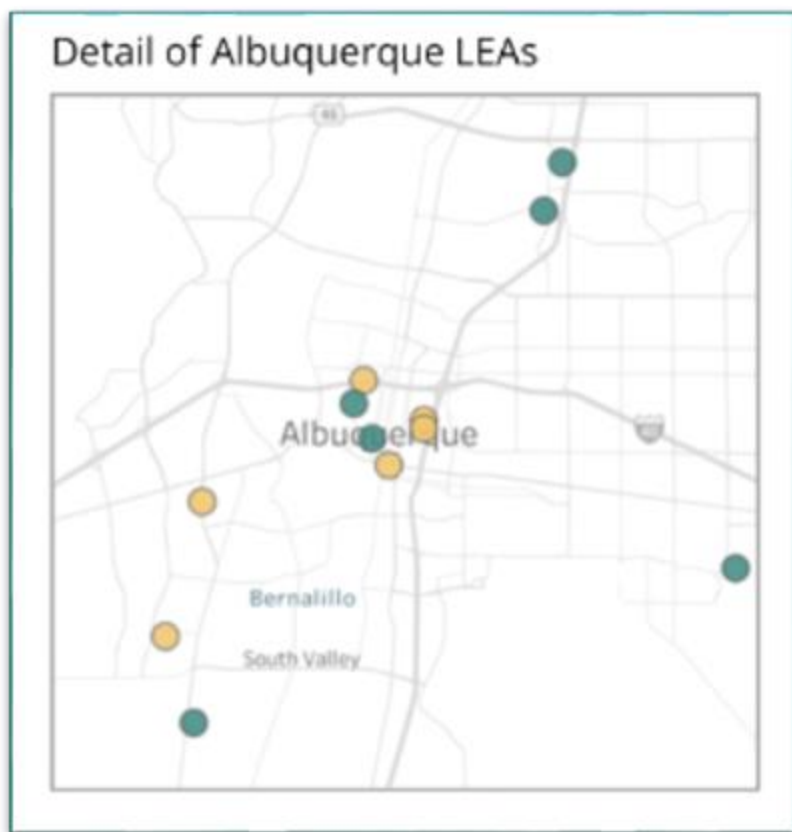
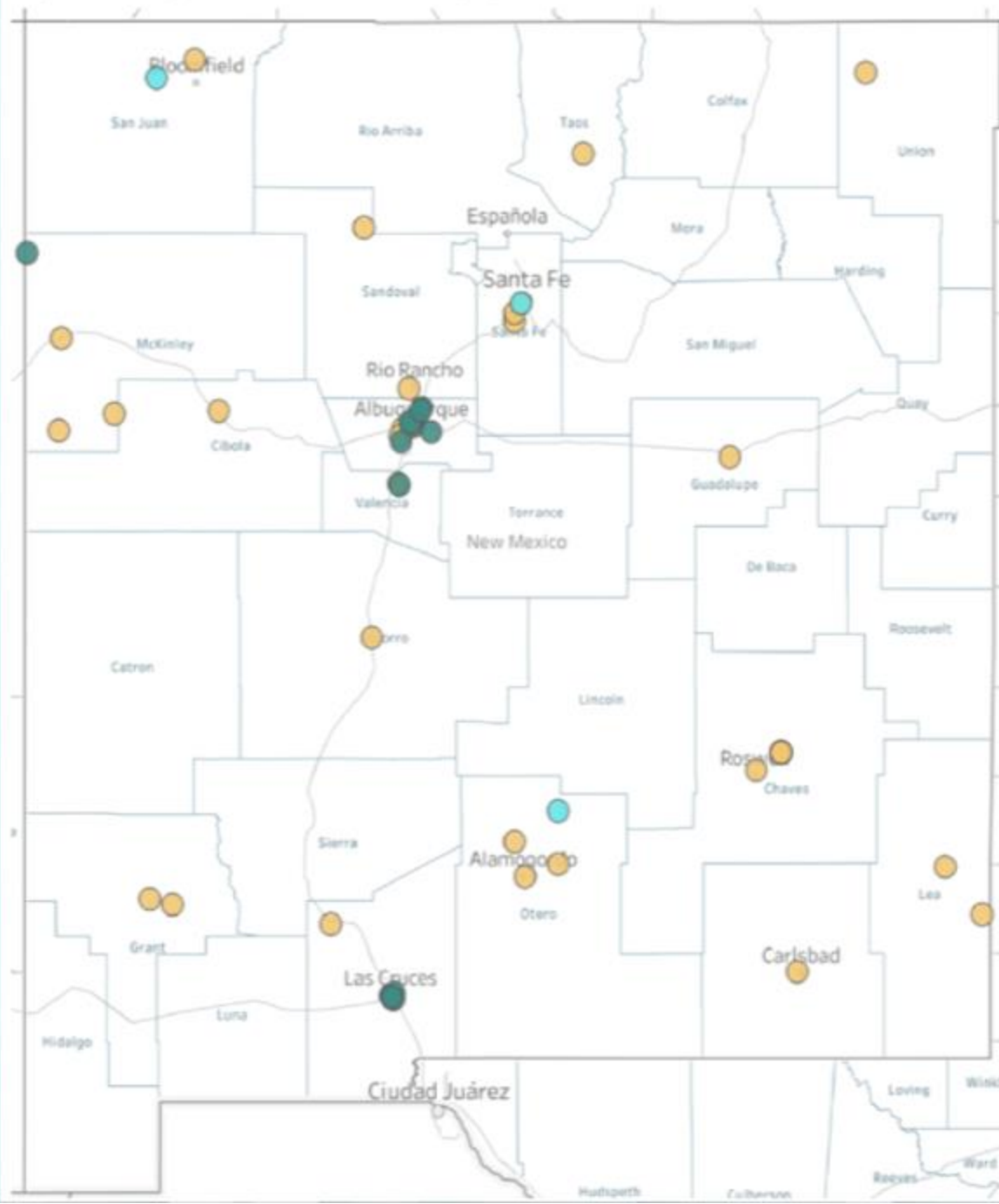


Figure 1: Map of Innovation Zone (IZ) LEAs



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Program Highlights: 2023-2024 School Year

<p>2,449 IZ students participated in internships (paid and unpaid).</p>	<p>67% of paid internships used Innovation Zone dollars.</p>	<p>324% increase in students participating in internships in IZ schools since 2022-2023</p>
<p>94% of survey respondents agreed, “WBL should be a part of every student’s high school experience.”</p>	<p>958 IZ students participated in Community Capstones.</p>	<p>100% of survey respondents agreed, “All students should have an opportunity to use Capstones as a demonstration of competency for graduation.”</p>

Innovation Zone: Las Montañas Charter School

Las Cruces, NM

- Increased student engagement, attendance, and enrollment
- 24 student placed in work-based learning (WBL) across 10 industry partners
- Added new career technical student organizations
- New programs coming 2025:
 - Cosmetology
 - Medical
 - Logistics and Transportation



Innovation Zone: Alamogordo High School

Alamogordo, NM

- Programs generating revenue to sustain the initiative
 - Agriculture: raising and selling produce, fish, and quail
 - Automotive: offering detailing service
 - Welding: creating custom art
- Working to integrate its graduate profile across all K-12 classrooms



Innovation Zone: Hobbs High School CTECH

Hobbs, NM



“The Innovation Zone grant has ... allowed us to truly change lives that might not have had an opportunity otherwise. For example, [a student] with non-English speaking parents had a work-based learning opportunity at Habitat for Humanity, learning a trade outside the classroom. [The student's] shyness and overall confidence completely changed through the opportunity, and they graduated with a full-time position as a project manager.”

Innovation Zone: Health Leadership High School

Albuquerque, NM

- 150 students engaged in a WBL practicum and internship.
- Student, family and community certification after school events in Narcan, CPR, Shaken Baby Syndrome, etc.
- School-wide SEL days focused on art, cooking, and dance



Innovation Zone: Mescalero Apache Schools

Mescalero, NM (Tribally-controlled school)

- Created a business plan to generate revenue and develop entrepreneurship skills
 - Half of revenues reinvested in program; half pays student wages
 - T-shirts with cultural imagery
 - Charcuterie boards with local motifs
 - Welded grills and cooking pans to support tribal feast events
- Four-day scheduling allows for career exploration events on Fridays.
- Students are returning to the tribal school from surrounding districts.



Review of the Innovation Zone Pilot

- Conducted site visits to see program implementation
- Quantified student outcome data from Innovation Zone funding and programming
- Reflected on surveys and reports provided by contractors
- Assessed alignment of Innovation Zones with the mission and vision of the Public Education Department



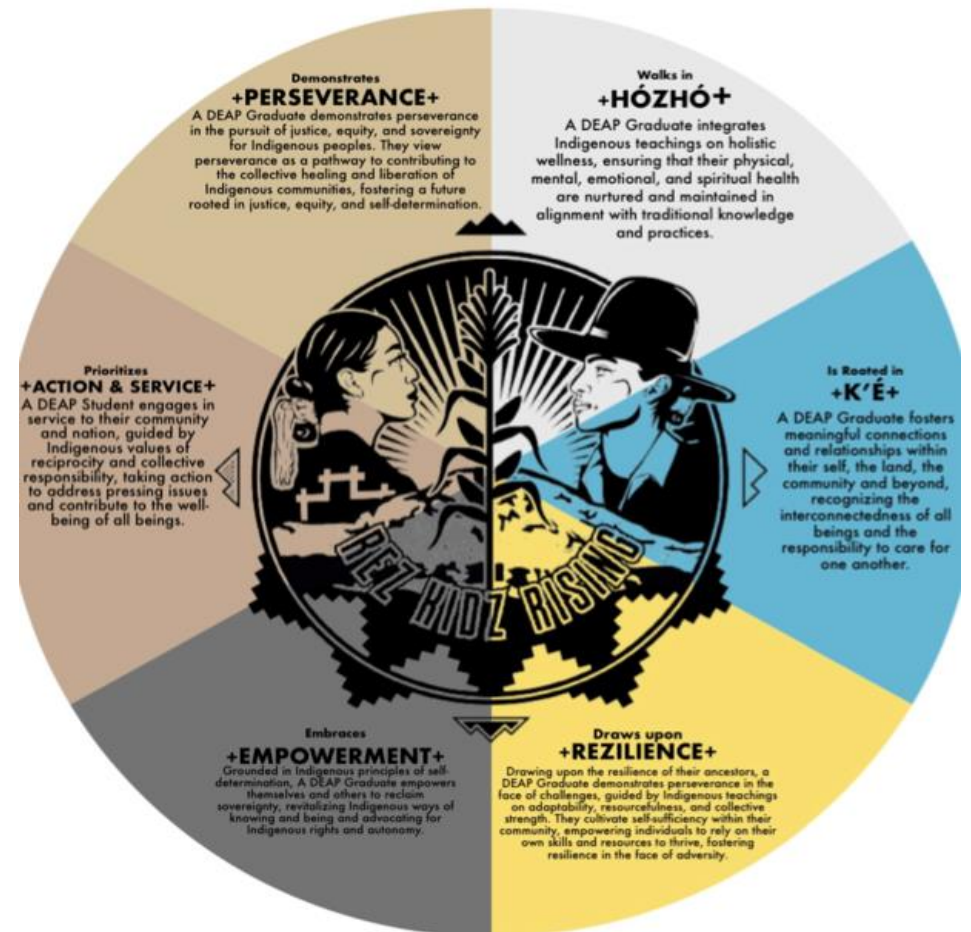
Next Step 1: Align Program with Graduate Profiles

42 of 51 (82%) Innovation Zone sites have a graduate profile.

Strategy:

- Participants will have a complete GP before applying for competitive programmatic funding.
- Planning year funding available for new applicants and existing 18% to complete their GP and strategic plan.

++DEAP GRADUATE PROFILE++



Next Step 2: Align Local Goals to Agency Goals

HB171 eliminated demonstrations of competency.

Strategy:

- Align Innovation Zone goals with agency goals.
- Participants will select at least one of these goals to pursue...

- ✓ Improved graduation rates
- ✓ Improved attendance
- ✓ Improved academic proficiency

Next Step 3: Implement Program with Fidelity

Consistent variables lead to more accurate correlation between inputs and outputs.

Strategy:

- All participants will implement all components of Innovation Zones with fidelity
 - based on a 3-year strategic plan
 - focused on their self-selected goal
 - designed to reduce barriers for students most in need, but engaging all students on campus.

- ✓ High quality CTE programs of study
- ✓ Work-based learning
- ✓ Community capstone projects
- ✓ Aligned dual credit
- ✓ Flexible course design and master schedules
- ✓ NextStep Plans via the LevelAll platform
- ✓ Integrated SEL supports

Next Step 4: Collect Annual Performance Reports

NMSU has made recommendations for how we can enhance the evaluation process moving forward.

Strategy:

- Qualitative and quantitative measurements enable a more accurate program evaluation.
- In addition to completing student and staff surveys, all participants will submit...

- ✓ Baseline data in application related to self-selected goal
- ✓ An annual performance report with quantitative and qualitative evidence of progress
- ✓ A narrative describing outcomes related to the graduate profile

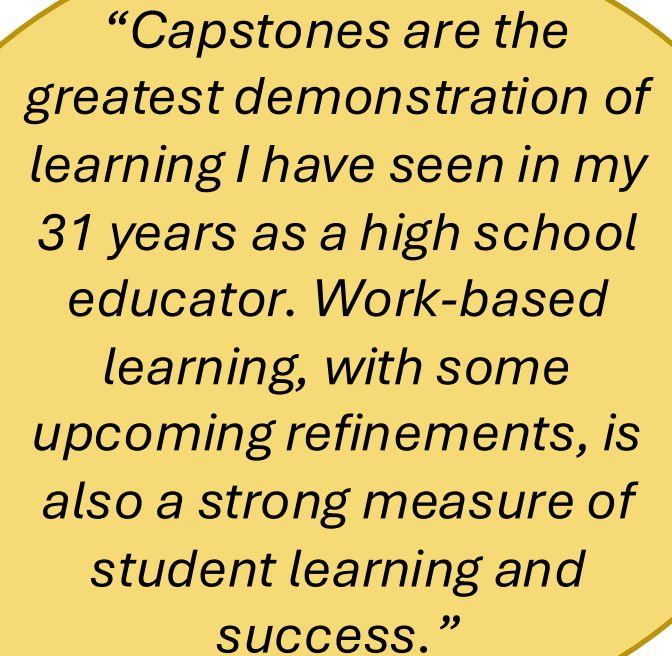
Next Step 5: Provide Evidence-based Frameworks

Consistent definitions, understanding, and implementation will generate more consistent results.

Strategy:

PED will provide expectations and frameworks for high quality ...

- Work-based learning
- Capstone projects



“Capstones are the greatest demonstration of learning I have seen in my 31 years as a high school educator. Work-based learning, with some upcoming refinements, is also a strong measure of student learning and success.”

Next Step 6: Sustain Funding

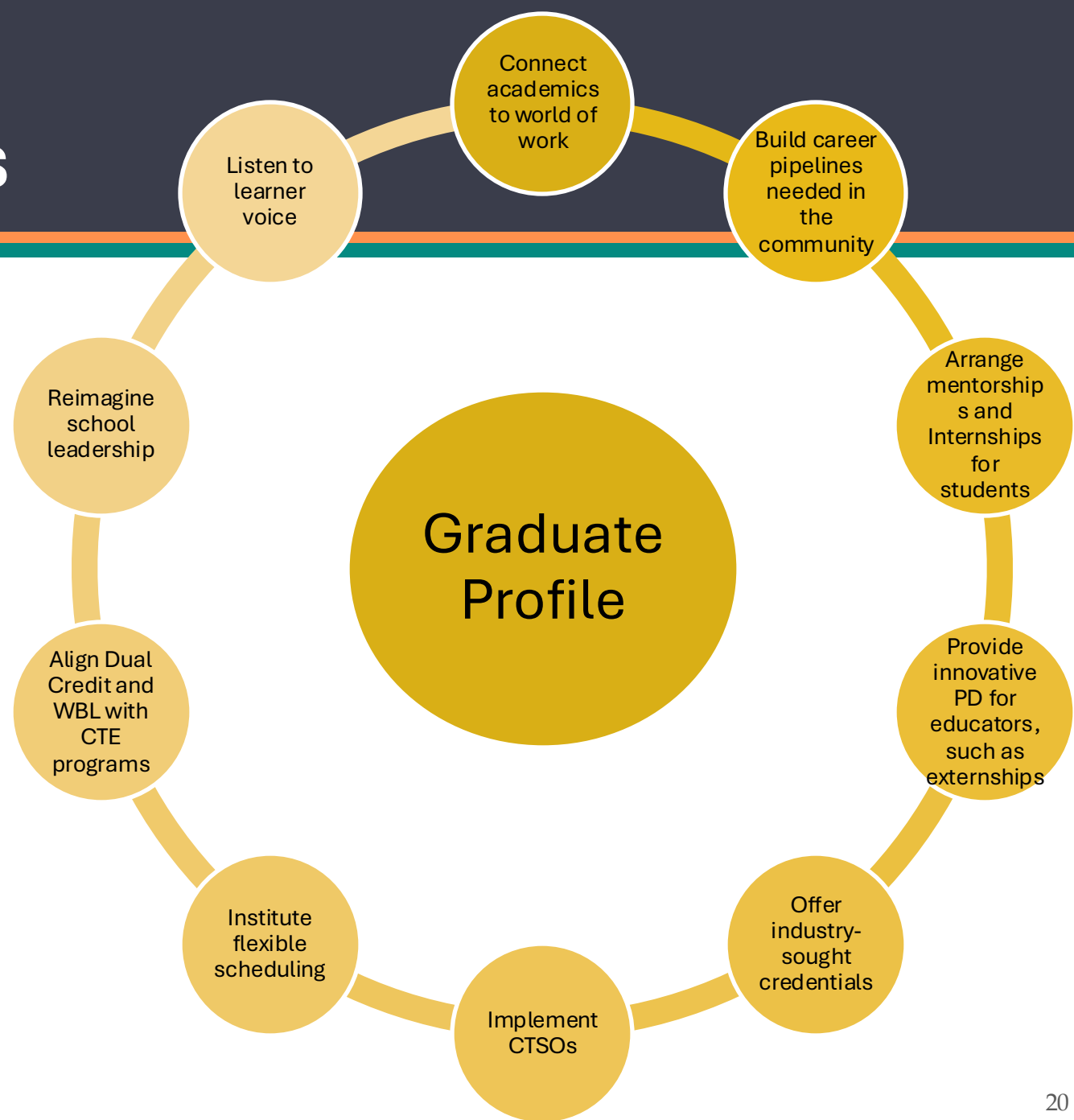
Generous year-to-year funding has allowed for program growth, but limits planning and the use of funds.

Request:

A dependable three-year award from a recurring funding source such as PERF or GRO, allowing participants to align a three-year strategic plan, budget, and program implementation to enable greater innovation



Innovation Zones



Thank you!

For Questions

Amanda DeBell, Deputy Secretary
Teaching, Learning and Innovation
Amanda.DeBell@ped.nm.gov
(505) 670-3476

Breezy Gutierrez, Director
College and Career Readiness Bureau
Breezy.Gutierrez@ped.nm.gov
(505) 231-5425

