

# *Budget Solutions through Technology in New Mexico*

**Senator Cynthia Nava**  
Chair, NM Senate Education Committee &  
NM Legislative Education Study Committee

*Presentation to the Education Committee  
Council of State Governments-West  
Monday, September 13, 2010*

# IDEAL-NM and the Cyber Academy

## Goals

- Provide eLearning services to public schools, higher education institutions, and state agencies;
- Reduce geographic and other barriers to educational opportunity statewide; and
- Increase the computer literacy skills online learners need to participate in a global economy.

# IDEAL-NM and the Cyber Academy

## Structure

The structure of IDEAL-NM includes three main components:

- the statewide eLearning services center, which is the physical location for administrative staff for IDEAL-NM and the cyber academy;
- the statewide eLearning system, which includes the infrastructure that supports all aspects of online learning, including a learning management system accessible through a web-portal; and
- the cyber academy, which serves public school students in grades P through 12 statewide.

# IDEAL-NM and the Cyber Academy

## Funding

Since 2007, the New Mexico Legislature has appropriated approximately \$11.5 million for IDEAL-NM:

- \$8.1 million to the Higher Education Department, primarily to implement the IDEAL-NM infrastructure statewide; and
- nearly \$3.4 million to support the Public Education Department for the department's operational costs and distance learning networks.

# IDEAL-NM and the Cyber Academy

## Funding

- The average cost to develop a cyber academy course in-state is approximately \$7,200.
- One of the main costs of the cyber academy that is not funded by legislative appropriations is the eTeacher's salary.
- IDEAL-NM contracts with the eTeachers, who are paid a per-student fee for each semester-long course that they teach via the cyber academy.
- school districts that participate in the cyber academy pay \$200 per student enrolled in one semester-long class

# IDEAL-NM and the Cyber Academy

## Higher Education and State Agencies

- Currently, the higher education link of the IDEAL-NM web-portal provides a catalog and a schedule of online courses offered online, as well as links to the colleges and universities providing these courses, some of which currently deliver courses through the learning management system.
- Several training courses have been developed for governmental agencies.
- Providing online training for state agency staff may eventually lead to budget solutions by reducing employee travel time and associated costs.

# Carve Your Path

This “one-stop” online user interface will allow students to:

- develop electronic portfolios for alternative demonstrations of competency for both high school graduation and New Mexico’s eleventh grade college and workforce readiness assessments;
- track their Next-Step Plans, required in state law every year beginning in 8<sup>th</sup> grade;
- access electronic transcripts and track their completion of high school graduation requirements; and
- view the high school preparation necessary for a postsecondary education or career.

# Innovate-Educate NM Partners





# CIM Clicker Poll

- How confident are you that your staff could be re-tooled in a virtual format?
  - A. Very Confident
  - B. Confident
  - C. Somewhat Confident
  - D. Not Confident
- How willing is your staff to learn new ways to deliver instruction, including in a virtual domain?
  - A. Very Willing
  - B. Willing
  - C. Somewhat Willing
  - D. Not Willing
- How important is the principal or administrator's knowledge and capability in using technology?
  - A. Very Important
  - B. Important
  - C. Somewhat Important
  - D. Not Important