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New Mexico Center for School Leadership Receives \$160K Grant to Expand Innovative Model into Other States

(ALBUQUERQUE, NM) October 17, 2017 - The New Mexico Center for School Leadership (The Center), a nonprofit organization at the forefront of education reform, received a new donor gift this month to build the organization's capacity to expand their local-wisdom for local-schools model into Memphis, Tennessee.

The Center, the network hub for ACE, Health, Tech and Siembra Leadership High Schools, was given the \$162,000 donation in recognition of their successful charter school model that utilizes local wisdom and project-based learning to engage youth underserved by traditional educational systems.

"This gift gives us a great opportunity to work with more partners and continue developing our model and furthering the innovative work we've done in New Mexico," says director Tony Monfiletto. "In Memphis, we hope to help create healthier, more prosperous communities and better serve disconnected youth."

The Center's mission is to support local communities in developing schools and reforming traditional education models through direct input from the people who have the most at stake in the success of our educational system: students, families, community members and employers. This gift will allow The Center to build upon the New Mexico model and assist local leaders in adapting it to the unique needs in Memphis. The Center will begin its work in Memphis by partnering with community members, employers, educators and students to analyze their needs and chart a path to serving disengaged youth.

"A simple analysis of the number of students who are 'competent' at math or reading does not tell the story of a school," says Monfiletto. "The ability to solve problems, work as a team, and communicate ideas are fundamental to a young person's future, but those can't be measured within our current evaluation system."

A 2006 study found:

47% of dropouts say the major reason for dropping out was that classes weren't interesting
69% said they weren't motivated or inspired to work hard in school
81% said there should be more real-world and experiential learning in schools

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About The Center for School Leadership

<http://leadership-pdc.org/>