



Highlighted Project *New Mexico*

New Mexico Principals Pursuing Excellence Program

The South Central Comprehensive Center (SC3) at the University of Oklahoma, in partnership with WestEd, is supporting the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) to build the capacity of the lowest performing schools and empower principals to practice leadership behaviors that drive significant gains in student achievement. To reach these goals, NMPED has created a turnaround leadership program, Principals Pursuing Excellence, for its district and school leaders to support low-performing districts and schools.

Principals Pursuing Excellence program is based on the University of Virginia (UVA) Partnership for Leaders in Education (PLE) Turnaround Specialist Program. The UVA program uses a systemic approach by working with school-, district-, and state-level leadership teams to help them build the internal capacity necessary to support high impact leaders and sustain effective school turnarounds. New Mexico joined UVA's program in 2011, and Oklahoma (also in the SC3 region) joined in 2013.

The South Central Comprehensive Center at the University of Oklahoma through its WestEd partner collaborated with the UVA Executive Director and NMPED Priority Schools staff members to help guide and facilitate the Principals Pursuing Excellence program. They also assisted NMPED's Priority Schools Bureau staff members to develop the summer Leadership Academy, which is a professional development opportunity for district and school leadership (especially for the districts that could not attend the UVA training) to get a preview of program. The intermediate outcomes will be highly effective leaders at the district level assisting in the successful implementation of turnaround efforts for the lowest performing schools. The long-term outcomes will demonstrate improvements in leadership, teaching, and learning for these schools in New Mexico.

For more information and resources, visit the South Central Comprehensive Center website at www.sc3ta.org.



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