



1211 Hawaii Avenue
Alamogordo, NM 88310
Office: 575-812-6000

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE PRESS RELEASE

Alamogordo Public Schools Selected Again as Recipient of NMPED Innovation Grant

Thursday, June 22, 2023 - Alamogordo, NM – Alamogordo Public School District

Alamogordo Public Schools is thrilled to announce its selection as one of the recipients of the New Mexico Public Education Department's (NMPED) Innovation Grant. This prestigious grant will enable the district to continue to grow as an "Innovation Zone" and implement new transformative initiatives aimed at enhancing the high school education experience and academic outcomes for our local community.

The NMPED has identified 47 schools throughout New Mexico, including Alamogordo Public Schools, to serve as Innovation Zones. These zones will leverage existing innovative practices already in place within our district and other schools across the state, with a focus on workplace learning, career and technical education, and comprehensive support services.

The Alamogordo Public School district is innovating our Career and Technical Education Programs by elevating the hands-on learning experience provided to our students. These experiences will include a work-based learning program in which students will learn real-world, career experiences through the reimagined CTE programs that are being developed.

As part of the Innovation Zone program, Alamogordo Public Schools will receive comprehensive professional development, guidance, and technical assistance. These resources will support the implementation of a reimagined school experience, fostering the development of leadership teams and facilitating work-based and experiential learning opportunities. The grant funding, totaling \$200,000 this year, will be utilized to enhance our Career and Technical Education initiatives, empowering students to explore diverse pathways to college and career success.

Alamogordo High School has selected the Agriculture Program as the first program to be "innovated" with these grant funds. Students will not only learn about agriculture but will also be a vital component in running and operating a fully functioning greenhouse and gardens. The food grown from this program will be used to help support other district food initiatives and community outreach programs.

Anna Alday, the Career and Technical Education Coordinator for Alamogordo Public Schools, expressed excitement about the district's involvement in the Innovation Zone project. She stated, "This opportunity allows us to align with our long-term goals of innovating our career and technical education programs to provide students with enhanced opportunities, growth, and a more hands-on experience."

Alamogordo Public Schools will actively engage with our community to determine how our local public education system can best serve the needs and aspirations of our students. This collaborative effort will include the refinement of the local "Profile of a Graduate" document that community members contributed to via a survey in April, outlining the community's expectations for high school graduates.

"At Alamogordo Public Schools, we are thrilled to once again be selected as a recipient of the Innovation Zone Grant. Our initial award, one of the largest in the state at \$750,000, has already sparked a wave of excitement and transformative changes within our educational system. Now, with the additional \$200,000 grant, we envision an even brighter future for our CTE students, brimming with opportunities and pathways to success. This generous support fuels our passion to continually innovate and empower our students, ensuring they are equipped with the skills and knowledge needed to thrive in a rapidly evolving world," shared Acting Superintendent Pam Renteria.

We are immensely grateful to the NMPED for selecting Alamogordo Public Schools as an Innovation Zone recipient. This grant will enable us to build upon our commitment to innovation and provide our students with expanded opportunities, growth, and an education that is both relevant and exciting.

###



Student Interns at work across the APS district this summer, thanks to this grant!

If you would like to learn more about the Alamogordo Public Schools, please visit our website at www.alamogordoschools.org or on Facebook at www.facebook.com/AlamogordoPublicSchools/