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CONTACT: Bev Friedman, Public Education Department
505-827-6661, c: 505-795-0180, bev.friedman@state.nm.us
or Laura J. Mulry, Higher Education Department
505-476-8406, c: 505-490-3259, laura.mulry@state.nm.us

Center for Digital Education Ranks IDEAL-NM #3 in Nation *National Survey Finds Substantial Increase in Online Education*

SANTA FE – New Mexico’s statewide eLearning initiative IDEAL-NM ([Innovative Digital Education and Learning](#)) has been ranked third (up from sixth) in an annual survey conducted by e.Republic’s Center for Digital Education (CDE). IDEAL-NM provides eLearning services to P-12 schools, higher education institutions, and government agencies to reduce barriers to educational opportunity while increasing the digital literacy skills youth and adult learners need to participate in a global economy.

The survey, which evaluates national online learning policy, reveals significant growth in state support for implementation of online programs in K-12 education. Twenty-five states lead online statewide initiatives – an increase from the 15 states driving programs a year ago. The report is an analysis of state policies supporting online learning opportunities for all students.

“IDEAL-NM courses connect more students to highly qualified teachers, provides school districts expanded curriculum, and allows all districts free access and use of state-developed curriculum and other technology tools,” said New Mexico Education Secretary Veronica C. García. “IDEAL-NM has the potential to greatly impact student success in New Mexico.”

“As we continue to focus our efforts on increasing educational attainment for all of our students, IDEAL-NM becomes an increasingly important tool that helps more of our students succeed,” said New Mexico Cabinet Secretary of Higher Education Dr. Vi Florez. “This collaborative initiative between higher education and K-12 demonstrates that our statewide online learning platform provides valuable opportunities for students to achieve their educational goals.”

CDE ranked states based on existing policies around online learning. The report is produced in an effort to inform elected officials about best practices to focus on to encourage transformation of academic environments.

“Online learning remains one of the most powerful and transformative mediums for U.S. education,” said Marina Leight, vice president of education at the Center for Digital Education. “We applaud policymakers across the nation who are driving new programs and commend those with existing programs who continue to ensure online learning is a priority.”

The top ten states are:

1. Florida
2. South Carolina
- 3. New Mexico**
4. Hawaii
5. Michigan
6. Louisiana
7. Idaho
8. Minnesota
9. Oregon
10. Arkansas

View the full list at <http://www.convergemag.com/awards/online-learning/Online-Learning-2009.html>.

For more information on IDEAL-NM, visit www.ideal-nm.org. The Center for Digital Education is a national research and advisory institute providing education and industry leaders with decision support, research and educational services to help them effectively incorporate new technologies in the 21st century. Visit www.centerdigitaled.com. The Center is a division of e.Republic, Inc., a national publishing, event and research company focused on information technology in the public sector. Visit www.erepublic.com.

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