



# Creating Innovation Zones

## Arkansas: Innovation Zones

Denise Airola, Office of Innovation for Education, University of Arkansas



Innovation in Arkansas:  
The Power of Networked Innovation

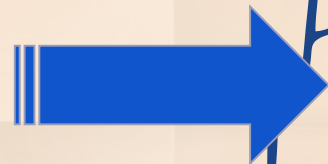




## DIVISION OF ELEMENTARY & SECONDARY EDUCATION

The Arkansas Department of  
Education is transforming  
Arkansas to lead the nation in  
student-focused education.

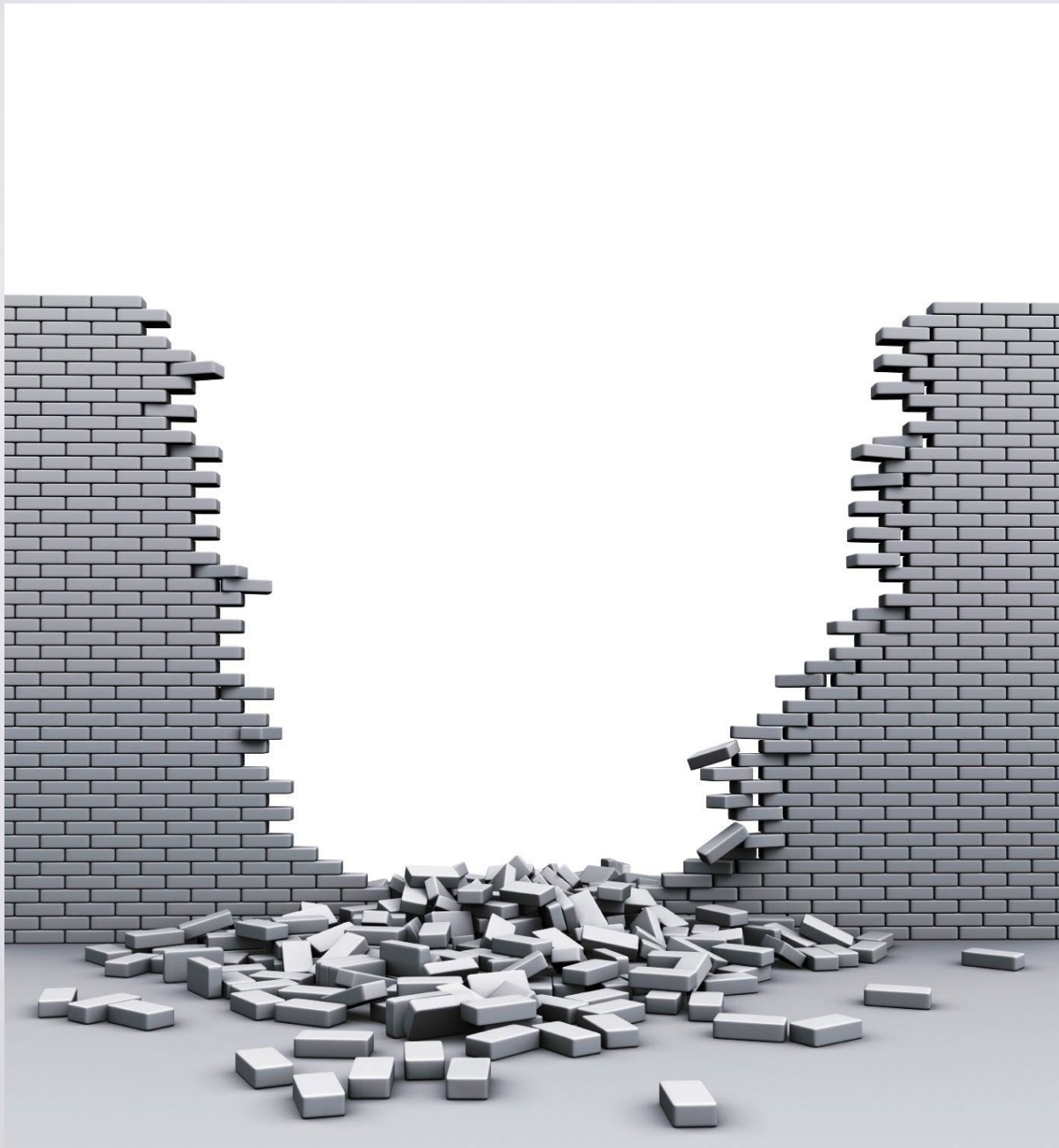
Innovation Zones:  
Started with  
Enabling Policies for  
Innovative  
Transformation



Charter, SOL,  
Act 1240, Credit  
by Demonstrated  
Mastery

# innovation

“ . . . .a new or creative alternative to the existing instructional and administrative practices that is intended to improve academic performance and learning for all students.” DESE/SOI Rules



“Innovation is less about generating brand-new ideas and more about knocking down barriers to making those ideas a reality.”

~John Kotter, *Accelerate*

**SOI Application** means excitement about

## VISION

- “Why”
- Learners
- Culture

### Process

- **Explore**—Education Innovation Summit
- **Connect**—School and Community
- **Define**--Challenges
- **Create** --Goals and Theory of Action
- **Submit**-- Application
- **Notification** of Approval of Application by AR Secretary of Education

**SOI Designation** means putting ideas into motion to create

## IMPACT

- Goals
- Evidence
- Systems

### Progress

- **Designate**-- In 2 year window from approval of SOI application
- **Accumulate**--Evidence of substantial progress toward goals
- **Collaborate**-- networking opportunities with other SOI
- **Share and Celebrate**—your story with the ADE team on-site visit
- **Notification** of Designation as SOI by AR Secretary of Education

**SOI Renewal** means commitment to developing an innovative

## MINDSET

- Growth
- Inquiry
- Collaboration

### Perseverance

- **Reflect**—In year 4 of SOI journey
- **Collective Commitment**—to all learners
- **Engage**—in inquiry as the catalyst for continuous improvement
- **Share and Celebrate**—your story with the ADE team on-site visit
- **Notification** of Renewal as a SOI by AR Secretary of Education

# Student-focused

Based on the needs of your learners

# SOI Council of Innovation

Collaborate to design and develop your SOI plan

60% vote

For SOI success!



# Substantial Progress

Toward meeting goals

2 years to designate

Try out Theory of Action

4 year renewal

To continue SOI success!

With so many paths to transformation, WHY SOI?



“I didn’t expect this, it really is a shift in mindset...”

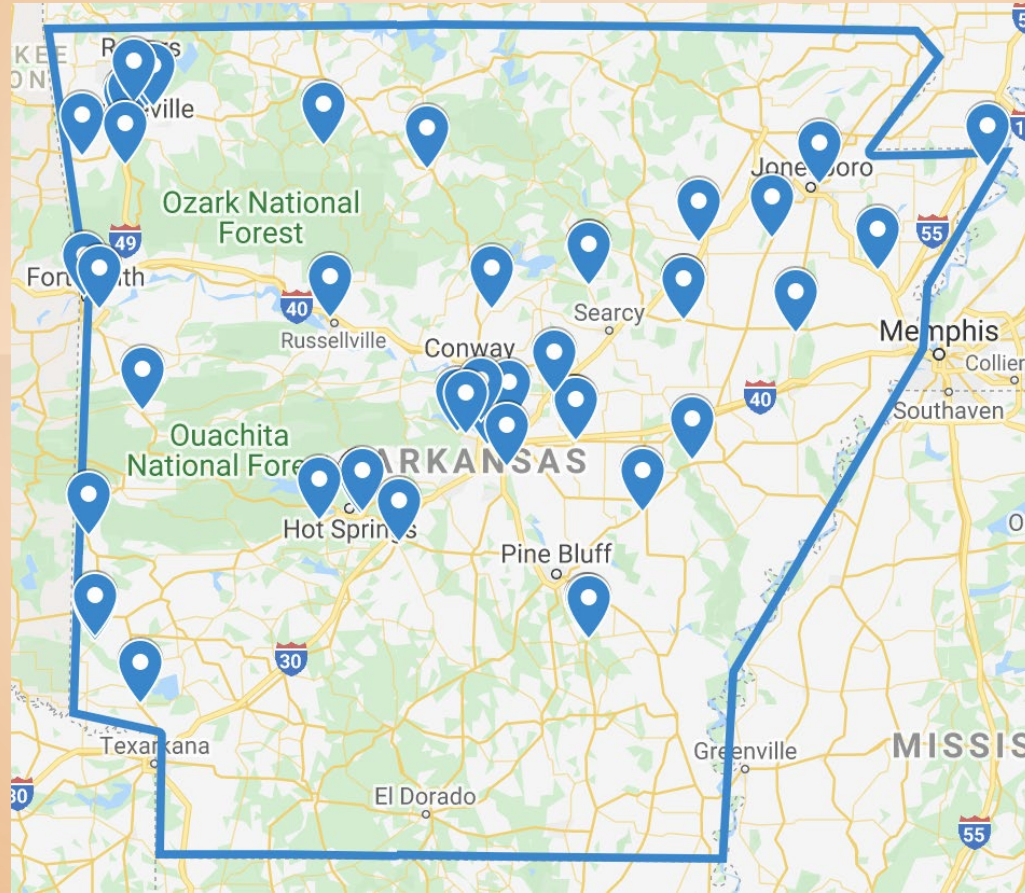
Empowered Learners Networked for Support =



Professional  
Networks  
make a  
difference

Meaningful, Applied Learning & Reflection = Change in Practice

# Arkansas Schools of INNOVATION: Networks are Statewide





# Contact Information

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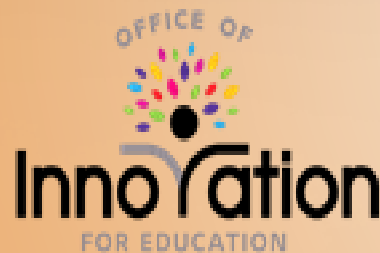
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