Creating Innovation Zones
Arkansas: Innovation Zones

Denise Airola, Office of Innovation for Education, University of Arkansas
Innovation in Arkansas: The Power of Networked Innovation
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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