



New Mexico State University

ARROWHEAD CENTER

LEADING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FOR NEW MEXICO STATE UNIVERSITY

STEM Focus in Innoventure
Competition Theme

National Security Preparedness Project
Grant No: DE-FG52-07NA28084

DOE/NA/28084-SF322

Submitted
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March 31, 2010



Live, Learn and Thrive

"This material is based upon work supported by the Department of Energy [National Nuclear Security Administration] under Award Number DE-FG52-07NA28084."

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

This report documents the inclusion of the STEM focus in the annual competition theme for the Innoventure youth project. The STEM concepts have always played a part in the selection of the theme. However, this year, STEM is intentionally mentioned in the description of the theme to emphasize the importance of these concepts. This work is a part of the National Security Preparedness Project (NSPP), being performed under a Department of Energy (DOE)/National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA) grant. This report is due on March 31, 2010, as performance measure 3.2.2 (Grant No: DE-FG52-07NA28084, "Proposal for FY 2009 Congressional Appropriation: Technical Proposal", September 1, 2009, Page 5).

2.0 THE INNOVENTURE 2011 COMPETITION THEME

Student interest in a number of critically important fields and specialties in the STEM areas have been in long-term decline. It is important to give students opportunities to utilize STEM concepts whenever possible to provide students exposure to these concepts, increase their skills level with these concepts, and increase their interest in these concepts. When developing the theme for the 2010-2011 Innoventure annual competition, three things were heavily considered – feedback from teachers and student who have previously participated in the Innoventure project, continuing the theme of social entrepreneurship, and a strong inclusion of the STEM concepts.

The theme for the Innoventure 2011 competition meets all three of these areas. This year, students will be asked to step into the world of Innoventureville, where all the community members want to ensure that they are providing the highest quality of life for current generations, without taking away from future generations. The students will be tasked with developing an innovative product using STEM skills and concepts to meet the community's needs in one of the following areas: waste management, building materials, agriculture, energy, transportation, or water.

3.0 CONCLUSION

Today's students have a strong desire to be socially responsible and view social entrepreneurship as a vehicle to create solutions for social problems and issues. The 2011 theme for the Innoventure annual competition builds on this student desire, while incorporating the STEM concepts and feedback from previous participants. It will be interesting to see the products and services that students create with these guidelines.