



PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Las Cruces, NM, August 2026

NM EDGE and Zschool Announce Opioid Use Disorder Training Partnership to Strengthen New Mexico's Frontline Workforce

New Mexico EDGE (NM EDGE), part of New Mexico State University's Cooperative Extension Service, has announced a new training partnership with Zschool to expand access to high-impact Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) education for New Mexico's frontline professionals. This collaboration delivers practical, evidence-based training designed to strengthen crisis response, improve safety, and connect individuals to appropriate care.

Through this partnership, NM EDGE and Zschool are offering a suite of **Operational Readiness for Opioid Use Disorder** training programs tailored for **law enforcement officers, correctional officers, first responders, and multidisciplinary crisis response teams**. Each course is delivered **online, self-paced, and designed to be completed in four hours**, making it accessible for agencies across urban, rural, and frontier communities.

The training focuses on real-world application, equipping participants with tools to recognize signs of opioid use disorder and co-occurring mental health conditions, safely de-escalate crises, reduce risk and liability, and strengthen referral pathways to treatment and community resources. The curriculum is grounded in the **CARE framework (Calm, Assess, Respond, Engage)** and emphasizes collaboration, harm reduction, and trauma-informed response.

"Frontline professionals are increasingly called upon to respond to complex opioid-related crises," said Christy Green, NM EDGE Program Director. "This partnership with Zschool allows us to deliver practical, actionable training that supports safety, professionalism, and better outcomes for individuals and communities across New Mexico."

Zschool brings nationally recognized expertise in behavioral health education and workforce development, while NM EDGE provides statewide reach and a strong institutional foundation through New Mexico State University. Together, the organizations aim to address workforce readiness gaps and support a coordinated response to the opioid crisis.

Participants who complete the training receive a **New Mexico State University/NM EDGE certificate of completion**, and many agencies may qualify for **100% fully funded enrollment**, helping reduce financial barriers to participation. This partnership reflects NM EDGE and Zschool's shared commitment to strengthening New Mexico's public safety, behavioral health, and emergency response systems through accessible, high-quality training.

For more information or to enroll, visit: <https://profed.nmsu.edu/>

About Zschool

Zschool delivers exceptional, highly engaging curricula to executive and business audiences across a variety of industries. They bring together leading universities, educational programs and Fortune 500 corporations for a unique partnership that provides mutual benefit and growth.

<https://www.zschool.com/>

About NM EDGE

NM EDGE is a nationally recognized professional development program housed within New Mexico State University's Cooperative Extension Service. The program's mission is to strengthen the knowledge and skills of public servants through education, ultimately supporting better government throughout the state.

To learn more about NM EDGE certification opportunities, visit <https://nmedge.nmsu.edu>