

# Adult and Developmental Education Collaborations That Ease College Transitions

Thanks for joining us! We will begin promptly at 3:00 p.m. ET.

- Use the "Chat" area for group interaction.
- The webinar will be closed captioned.
- Submit questions to Q/A as they arise.
- This webinar will be archived at [NROC.org](https://NROC.org) and you will receive a follow-up email with a link to the recording and slides.
- Contribute to the Twitter conversation at #NROCpd.
- Do you need help with Zoom? Email [memberservices@NROC.org](mailto:memberservices@NROC.org).

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technologies that improve  
learner readiness,  
retention, and success.



# Adult and Developmental Education Collaborations That Ease College Transitions

a conversation w/



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**Let's do  
Introduction  
s**





## Done in Two Parts

The Questions  
Being  
Addressed  
Today

1. *What problem are we trying to solve?*
2. *What did we do about it?*
3. *What has come from it and what have we learned?*
4. *What's on deck for next steps or the next evolution?*

# A Systems View

- Lesley Blicher,  
Consultant/  
Partnership Specialist
- Russ Fraenkel,  
Northwest (MN)  
Region Transitions  
Coordinator





Question 1:

***What problem are we trying to solve?***

# How to Maximize the Dev Ed/ABE Partnering Potential to Improve Student Outcomes





# The Two Systems

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**MINNESOTA STATE**



**Minnesota  
Adult Education**

# Who is Minnesota State?



- Third largest system of state colleges and universities in the U.S. and largest in the state with 30 two-year colleges, 7 universities, and 54 campuses
- Serves 340,000 students each year, with more Black and Indigenous students, as well as students of color, attending than all other higher education providers in Minnesota combined
- ~15,000 faculty and staff
- ~3,900 academic programs, including 802 fully online programs
- 13,500 customized and specialized training, occupational, and professional classes
- 37,000+ degrees, certificates, and diplomas annually

# What is Minnesota ABE?



<http://mnabe.org/>

- As statewide system that serves approximately 45,000 adults annually
- Adult education/ABE students working towards a high school credential, learning English, improving basic skills such as literacy and math, and/or preparing for post-secondary education or employment
- ABE services are delivered through network of providers, organized into consortia based on public school districts.
- All 300+ public school districts in Minnesota belong to one of 39 ABE consortia. Some consortia consist of only one district, while others contain dozens.

# The Two Systems in Partnership

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**MINNESOTA STATE**

37 institutions/54 campuses  
including 7 State universities  
and 30 Community and  
Technical Colleges



**Minnesota  
Adult Education**

Their designated  
Regional ABE Consortium

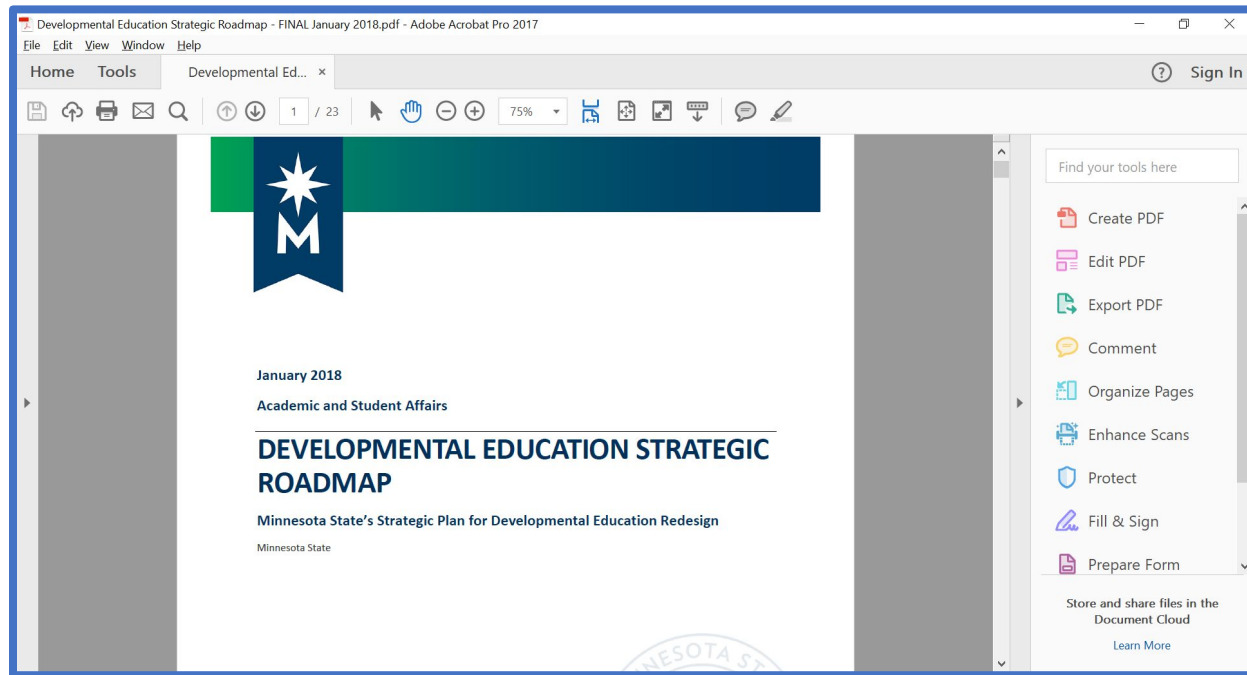


# Who are the Students in the Dev Ed/ABE Partnership Model?

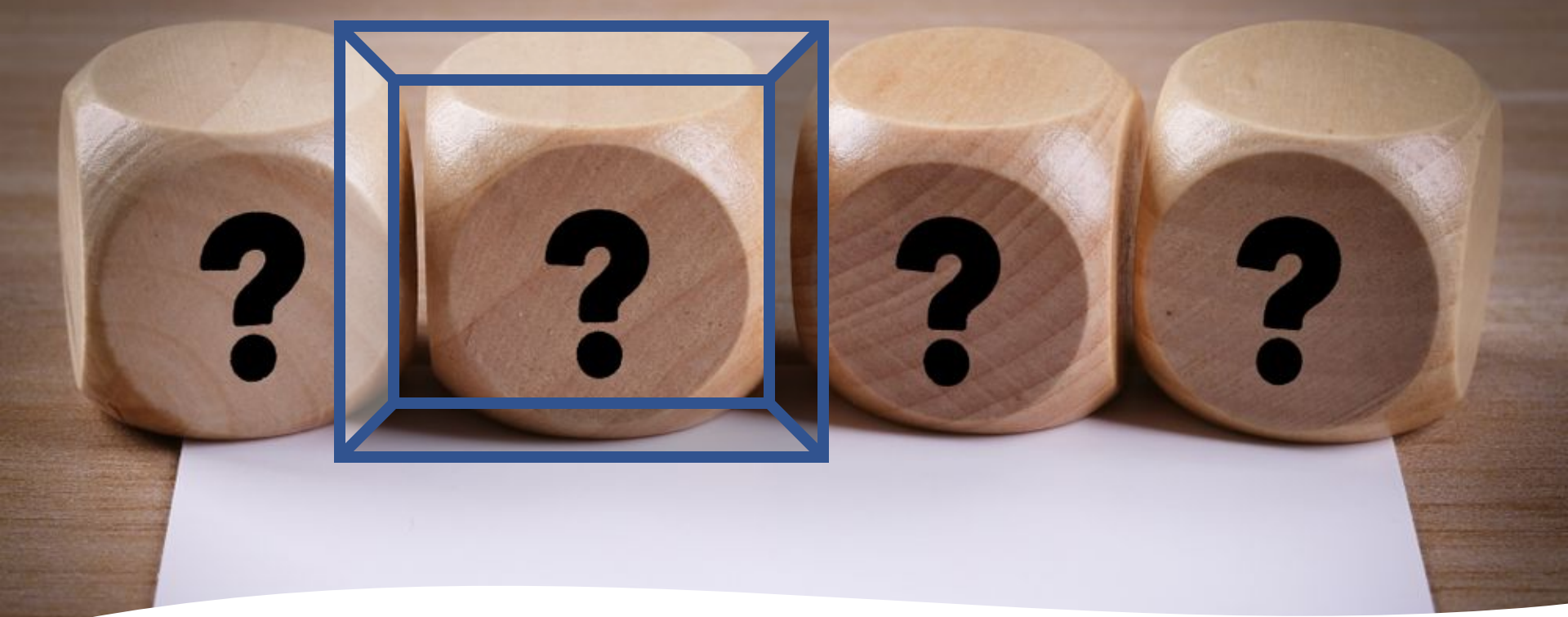
- Minnesota State-enrolled college students, who through testing (for reading, writing, and math) or other measures
- Have been placed in a developmental education course



# Minnesota State's Developmental Education Strategic Roadmap In Response to the 2017 Legislation



Minnesota State's Developmental Education Plan Report to the Legislature, Feb. 2018.  
Contains the Developmental Education Strategic Roadmap goals (PDF)



Question 2:

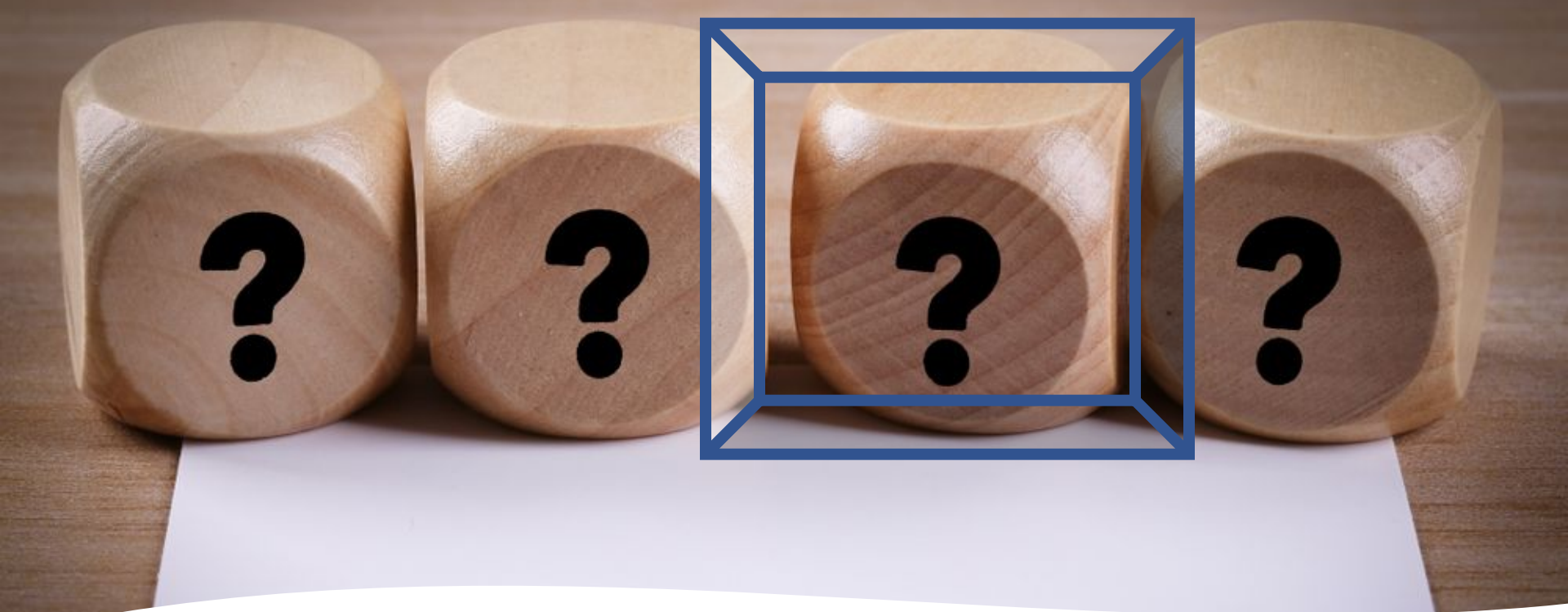
***What have we done about it?***

# The Dev Ed/ABE Partnership “Scaling and Expansion Project” was initiated by the Northwest Service Cooperative

- ✓ Meetings with partnership instructors and administrators/managers, and state officials
- ✓ Identified barriers to expansion and scaling, but also best practices for the most successful partnerships
- ✓ Documented at least 19 MN State Dev Ed/ABE partnerships
- ✓ Discovered a statewide hunger for sharing of practices and need for readily available resources
- ✓ Led to forming an Affinity Group
- ✓ That led to development of a Dev Ed/ABE Toolkit for Improving Student Success, documenting four existing partnership stories







Question 3:

**What has come from it and what have we learned?**

We Learned...  
that 19 of the  
30 Two-Year  
Colleges Have  
an ABE  
Partnership in  
“Some Flavor”



# We've Defined the Partnership Models (or Levels of Integrated Instruction)

On a scale from low to high integration:

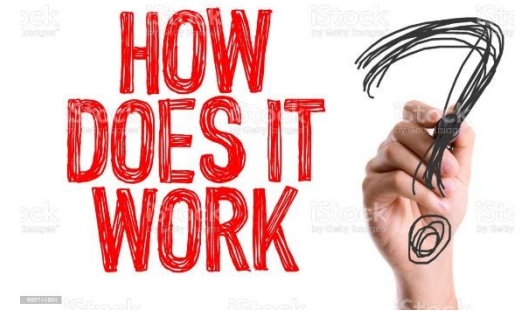
1. **No Integration with College, ABE Stand-Alone Courses**
2. **Light Integration - ABE Embedded Classroom Support**
3. **Moderate Integration - ABE Embedded Classroom Support and Study Skills Instruction**
4. **High Integration - Collaborative Concurrent Instruction/Co-Teaching Model**



# We Learned ...

**When ABE is more deeply integrated in the dev ed program, the data shows increased student success rates.**

And in this model, you will typically find a deep commitment to support the partnership by ABE and campus administrators





# We Can Easily List Off the Most Successful Partnership Practices

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1. Having passionate dev ed instructors in the partnership
2. Ability for Dev Ed and ABE instructor to form and build upon a strong relationship and trust
3. **Strong administrative leadership support (college and ABE)** who understand what each party brings to the table and benefits to student/college
4. Advance planning time for both instructors, one semester prior
5. Process for compensating the faculty member for their partnership efforts
6. On-campus ABE presence is ideal along with having ABE embedded right into the discipline's department.
7. Formally defining roles, even in a Memorandum of Understanding or Joint Powers Agreement



# We Have Completed A Toolkit

Toolkit (Draft) - <https://atlasabe.org/dev-ed-abe-toolkit/> (PDF)

## Dev Ed/ABE Toolkit

### A Toolkit for Forming and Sustaining Dev Ed and ABE Partnerships: Enhancing Student Success

This resource was created by the MDE-ABE Northwest Transitions Region with contributions by successful Minnesota State Developmental Education partnership practitioners from across Minnesota.

**Publication Year:** 2021

**Target Audience:** Adult Basic Education Educators, Campus Faculty, College and ABE Administrators, Regional Directors, and anyone with Developmental Education reporting responsibility

- [Access Draft Dev Ed-ABE Toolkit](#)



# The Chapters of the Toolkit



Chapter 1: Context and Introduction to the Dev Ed/ABE Model



Chapter 2: Creating a Dev Ed/ABE Partnership



Chapter 3: Types of Partnership Models/Levels of Collaboration



Chapter 4: Success Stories from the Field

# Relationship to Equity

- Minnesota State's Equity 2030 Plan

- By 2030, Minnesota State will eliminate the educational equity gaps at every Minnesota State college and university.
- Staggeringly ambitious goal
- Will require intentional systems and culture change and innovation and leadership across the state.



MN Equity 2030



# ABE-Added Supports Which Speak to Equity

- ABE instructors work closely with underrepresented, underprepared, and/or first-generation college students
- Digital literacy instruction/supports
- English Language Learners help
- Extended 1:1 academic support to course content and assignments
- Tracking of assignments/grades
- Navigator role including the online learning management system



# Dev Ed/ABE Partnerships through an Equity Lens

***The additional services which ABE instructors can provide students in dev ed courses can serve as a critical factor in addressing equity issues.***

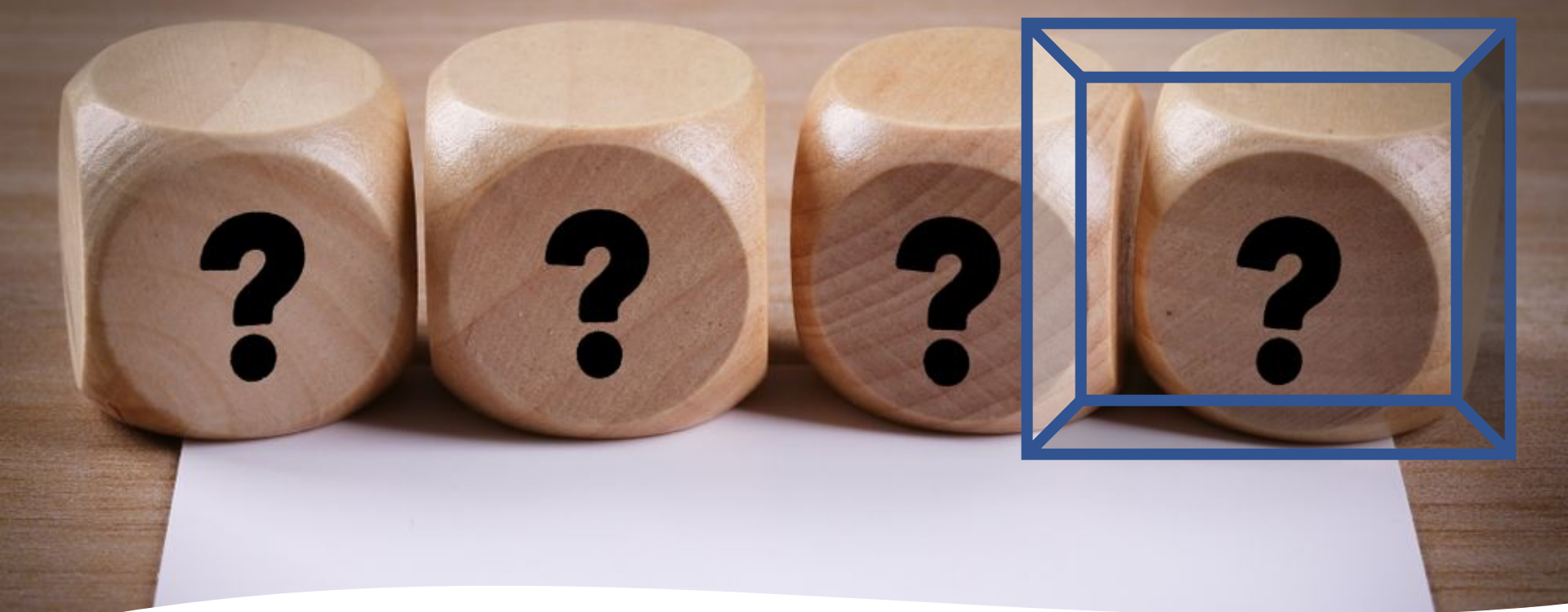


# But Mostly We Learned

There remains a vast hunger for both ABE and College ABE instructors and administrators to learn how to replicate this model (what it takes, how to fund it, how to sustain it, etc.).

There is a distinct buzz at the moment, throughout the state, in part we think, due to the work we have embarked upon.





Question 4:

What's on deck for next steps or the next evolution?



## Phase 2 of Toolkit and Resources

- Complete the Toolkit for broad dissemination as one means to encourage partnership scaling and expansion
- Seeking a common data set for evaluating partnership results
- Develop short instructional and testimonial videos
- Mentoring concept

# The Partnership View

- Ralph Cox, Math Faculty, Northland Community and Technical College (MN)
- Kirsten Fuglseth, ABE Manager, Northwest Service Cooperative (MN)
- Moderated by Russ Fraenkel, Northwest (MN) Region Transitions Coordinator







## The Questions We Will Address

1. *What problem are we trying to solve?*
2. *What did we do about it?*
3. *What has come from it and what have we learned?*
4. *What's on deck for next steps or the next evolution?*

# Q&A/ Discussion





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**Thank you for joining us!**

You will receive a link to the recording and presentation assets, also available at NROC.org.