

The University of New Mexico Business and Economic Summit

New Mexico the Entrepreneurial

Wednesday, November 19, 2025 | 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m. MST
Lobo Rainforest Building, 101 Broadway Blvd. NE, Albuquerque, NM 87102

8:00 - 8:30 a.m.	Networking & Refreshments
8:30 - 8:45 a.m.	Welcome and Opening Remarks Garnett S. Stokes , Ph.D., President, The University of New Mexico
8:45 - 9:30 a.m.	Panel – Small Business <i>Moderator: Leslie Hielema, President & CEO, New Mexico Chamber</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Troy McGee, CEO & Owner, WattsUp • Sandra Hirschberg, Founder, NM Startup Alliance • Aaron Silverblatt-Buser, Co-Founder, Silver Leaf
9:30 - 10:15 a.m.	Panel – Indigenous-owned Businesses <i>Moderator: Mereya Blanco, Community Navigator, Roanhorse Consulting</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Akilah Martinez, Artist & Founder, Glittering World Girl • Scott Tafoya, Indigenous Leadership Coach, Truth Dancer Coaching, LLC • Joseph Toledo, Owner, Smash N Crispy Burgers; Project Manager, Smart Tribe 275
10:15 - 10:30 a.m.	Networking Break
10:30 - 11:15 a.m.	Panel – Digital Arts, Creative Arts <i>Moderator: Tim Castillo, Director of Community Engagement Initiatives, The University of New Mexico</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • John-Mark Collins, Creative Director / Artist, Wonder + Light; Co-founder, Electric Playhouse & Lead Creative Engineer, Meow Wolf • Stephen Guerin, Founder, Simtable; President, RedfishGroup • Anthony Chee Emerson, Artist & Founder, Ma'ii Productions LLC
11:15 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.	Panel – Technology <i>Moderator: Mia Petersen, Executive Director & CEO, New Mexico Tech Council</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Roger Smith, Founder & CEO, Fault Tolerant Technology • Nerissa Whittington, Principal & Co-Founder, bigbyte.cc
12:00 - 12:15 p.m.	Networking Break/Lunch
12:15 - 1:00 p.m.	Keynote - Tech. Science. Accelerated. Mike Freeman , CEO, Innosphere/NSF ASCEND Engine in CO & WY General Partner Innosphere Funds
1:00 - 1:15p.m.	Q&A with Mike Freeman <i>Moderator: Lisa Kuuttila, CEO & Chief Economic Development Officer, UNM Rainforest Innovations</i>
1:15 - 1:30 p.m.	Networking Break
1:30 - 2:15 p.m.	Panel – Venture Capital <i>Moderator: Thomas Stephenson, Managing General Partner, Verge Fund</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • David Perez, Chairman, New Mexico Angels Board of Directors • Chris Japp, Managing Partner, Tramway Ventures • David Ellmann, Co-Founder & General Partner, UP.Abundance, UP.Partners

- 2:15 - 3:00 p.m. **Panel – Biosciences**
Moderator: [Stuart Rose](#), Ph.D., Entrepreneur, Investor and Founder, The BioScience Center
- [Howard Kozloff](#), Founder & CEO, NobleSpace
 - [Janeth Peña](#), Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer, Sandia Biotech
 - [Ivy Hurwitz](#), Ph.D., Chief Scientific Officer, YEEO Eco-Safe
- 3:00 - 3:15 p.m. **Networking Break**
- 3:15 - 4:00 p.m. **Panel – Engineering**
Moderator: [Tom Chepucavage](#), Entrepreneur, Co-founder, and former CEO, Zenthos Energy
- [Mahmoud R. Taha](#), Ph.D., P.E., CEO, TS-Nano
- 4:00 - 5:00 p.m. **Closing Remarks & Networking Reception**
[Barbara Rodríguez](#), Ph.D., Interim Provost & Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs,
The University of New Mexico