The University of New Mexico

# BUSINESS AND ECONOMIC SUMMIT



Building on the statewide dialogue of past UNM Business & Economic Summits, the 2026 event will examine New Mexico's technology commercialization pipeline - from research and innovation to impact. Panels will spotlight success stories, opportunities, and barriers across the state's innovation ecosystem, spanning bioscience, quantum, advanced energy, aerospace, creative industries, and Indigenous entrepreneurship. The summit will also feature conversations with leaders from New Mexico's research institutions, exploring how we can strengthen connections between research, entrepreneurship, investment, and economic growth.

## AGENDA

**Thursday, November 19, 2026 | 8:00 am - 4:00 pm (MST) | Lobo Rainforest Building**

**8:00-8:30 am** — **Networking & Refreshments**

**8:30-8:45 am** — **Welcome**
Barbara Rodriguez, PhD, Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs, The University of New Mexico

**Opening Remarks**
Victor W. Hwang, Founder & CEO, Right to Start

**8:45-9:45 am** — **Commercialization Impact of Research Universities & Labs Panel**
- Lisa Kuuttila, CEO & Chief Economic Development Officer, UNM Rainforest Innovations (Moderator)
- Lique Coolen, PhD, Vice President for Research, Provost, and Acting Director, Office of Innovation and Commercialization, New Mexico Tech
- Mary Monson, Sr. Manager, Technology Partnerships and Business Development, Sandia National Labs
- Carlos Murguia, Economic Development Officer, Sr, Arrowhead Center, NMSU
- Candice Siebenthal, Program Manager, Technology Engagement & Entrepreneurship, Richard P. Feynman Center for Innovation, Los Alamos National Laboratory

**9:45-10:30 am** — **Quantum & Artificial Intelligence Panel**
- Robert "Bob" Ledoux, PhD, Director, Quantum New Mexico Institute (QNM-I) (Moderator)
- Quintin Rizek, Manager of Investment Analysis, Roadrunner Venture Studios
- Stephen Buchanan, Co-Founder & CEO, Bandelier Technologies
- Denis Seletskiy, PhD, CEO, SELA Photonics

**10:30-10:45 am** — **Networking Break**

**10:45-11:30 am** — **Advanced Energy Panel**
- Charles Call, PhD, CEO, Pii Energy (Moderator)
- Mariano Fernandez, Business Developer, Liberty Fusion
- John Chavez, CEO, Osazda Energy

**11:30 am-12:15 pm** — **Biosciences & Agriculture Panel**
- Janeth Peña, PhD, NMBio Executive Director, Chief Scientific Officer, Sandia Biotech (Moderator)
- Rick Thomson, CEO, Sandia Medical Technologies
- Steve Kanzer, CPA, JD, CEO, Ironiks, Inc.
- Sarada Kuravi, PhD, Associate Professor, New Mexico State University

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| 12:15-12:45 pm | **Networking Break/Lunch** |
| 12:45-1:15 pm | **Remarks and UNM Economic Contribution Report Announcement**<br>Steven A.N. Goldstein, MD, PhD, President, The University of New Mexico |
| 1:15-1:30 pm | **Networking Break** |
| 1:30pm-2:15 pm | **Creative Arts Panel**<br>• Larry Sklar, PhD, Rainforest Ambassador and Distinguished Professor Emeritus, The University of New Mexico (Moderator)<br>• Shelle Sanchez, PhD, Arts Advisor & Creative Facilitator<br>• Johanna Stein, Founder, Blue Sky NM<br>• Bryant Johnson, Founder, Salad Bowl America Foundation |
| 2:15pm-3:00 pm | **Indigenous Entrepreneurship Panel**<br>• Kimberly Baca, President and CEO, KB Consulting (Moderator)<br>• Henry Jake Foreman, Program Director, New Mexico Community Capital<br>• Janice Lucero, Founder, Cotton Blossom Gardens |
| 3:00pm | **Closing Remarks**<br>Teresa Costantinidis, Executive Vice President for Finance and Administration, The University of New Mexico |
| | **Networking Reception** |