



Agenda

Competitiveness Conversations Across America: Securing Innovation in New Mexico

Location

Santa Fe Community Convention Center
201 W. Marcy St.
Santa Fe, NM 87501

May 5, 2025 (Mountain Time)

1:00 pm – 1:30 pm:	Registration & Networking
1:30 pm – 5:00 pm:	Competitiveness Conversation Programming
5:00 pm – 5:45 pm:	Break
5:45 pm – 6:15 pm:	Competitiveness Conversation Reception
6:15 pm – 8:15 pm:	Competitiveness Conversation Dinner & Fireside Chat

May 6, 2025 (Mountain Time)

8:00 am – 9:00 am:	Networking Breakfast
9:00 am – 12:00 pm:	Competitiveness Conversation Programming
12:00 pm:	Competitiveness Conversation Concludes

Competitiveness Conversations Across America: Securing Innovation in New Mexico

Monday, May 5, 2025

1:00 PM NETWORKING & REGISTRATION

**1:30 PM PUTTING COMPETITIVENESS IN CONTEXT:
CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES**

The event cohosts will kick off the New Mexico edition of the “[Competitiveness Conversations Across America](#)” series — taking place under the auspices of the “[National Commission on Innovation and Competitiveness Frontiers](#)” — framing the grand challenges and opportunities facing New Mexico and the United States.

- Dr. Thom Mason, Laboratory Director, Los Alamos National Laboratory
- Mr. Josh Parsons, Associate Laboratories Director, Sandia National Laboratories
- *Moderator:* The Hon. Deborah L. Wince-Smith, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness

**2:00 PM A FIRST LOOK: INNOVATION & COMPETITIVENESS —
NEW MEXICO**

A snapshot of key pillars supporting New Mexico’s innovation-based competitiveness.

- Mr. Chad Evans, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer, Council on Competitiveness

2:10 PM DEVELOPING THE NEW MEXICO INNOVATION ECOSYSTEM

Leaders will explore the key drivers of New Mexico’s innovation ecosystem. They will highlight major challenges and opportunities in the region, as well as suggest best practices to scale nationally to dramatically increase the innovation capacity of the United States.

Key questions to consider:

- How is New Mexico rethinking traditional models to accelerate innovation on the local, state, and regional levels?
 - How has New Mexico successfully attracted innovative talent and firms?
 - What major investments in infrastructure, technology, and talent are shaping the New Mexico innovation ecosystem?
 - What is New Mexico doing to leverage technological disruption for its competitive advantage?
- Dr. Luis Chavez, CEO and Founder, Hydrosonics
 - Mr. Robey Clark, Director, Strategic Initiatives, Kairos Power
 - Mr. Yeri Lopez, Director, Partnerships, J2 Ventures
 - Mr. Abhi Mukherjee, Operating Partner, CerraCap Ventures
 - Ms. Nora Sackett, Director, Office of Strategy, Science, & Technology, New Mexico Economic Development Department
 - *Moderator:* Dr. Duncan McBranch, Senior Director, Partnerships and Pipelines, Los Alamos National Laboratory

2:55 PM BREAK

3:15 PM THE FUTURE IS AI: EXPLORING THE POSSIBILITIES AND PITFALLS

From writing novels to designing new molecules, artificial intelligence is transforming nearly every sector and fueling a new era of innovation. This panel will lead a thought-provoking discussion on the challenges, opportunities, and potential risks of AI's future impact on New Mexico and the United States.

Key questions to consider:

- AI is advancing rapidly in both capability and accessibility. What is the next leap for AI technology, and how might AI help solve society's most complex innovation challenges?
 - How are New Mexico and its firms advancing AI technology?
 - What effect will AI have on the workforce in New Mexico, and how can policymakers and business leaders ensure everyone can benefit from the opportunities AI provides?
- Dr. Kevin Dixon, Director, Sandia National Laboratories
 - Ms. Meg Fisher, Co-Founder, Santa Fe AI Partners
 - Ms. Geetika Gupta, Director, Product Management, NVIDIA
 - Dr. Aric Hagberg, Division Leader, Los Alamos National Laboratory
 - Dr. Melanie Moses, Professor, Department of Computer Science, University of New Mexico
 - Dr. Will Tracy, Vice President, Applied Complexity, Santa Fe Institute
 - *Moderator:* Dr. Jason Pruet, Senior Director, Artificial Intelligence Office, Los Alamos National Laboratory

4:00 PM TECH TALK: BEYOND GENETICS — HOW INFECTIONS ALTER OUR 3D GENOME

Understanding how viruses reshape the host genome is key to preparing for future biological threats. However, our knowledge of this important biological process remains limited. This talk will explore how new research is uncovering the methods by which infections alter the body's DNA, giving us new insight into the possibilities for combatting biological threats.

- Dr. Cullen Roth, Genomics and Bioanalytics Scientist,
Los Alamos National Laboratory

4:15 PM THE INTERSECTION OF SCIENCE AND NATIONAL SECURITY

As research and innovation accelerate progress and U.S. competitiveness in fields like AI, biotech, and cybersecurity, research security has never been more pressing. Today, researchers and institutions face a growing array of threats to their work, from intellectual property theft to nation-state espionage. In this session, our expert panel will unpack the latest risks and strategies for protecting research and innovation.

Key Questions to Consider:

- What is the current state of the evolving landscape of research security threats and risks?
 - What strategies can researchers and institutions implement to secure their data, intellectual property, and collaborations in the digital age?
 - How can policymakers and regulators effectively balance the need for security with the need for open collaboration and innovation?
- Dr. Kevin Dixon, Program Director, Sandia National Laboratories
 - Ms. Rebecca Jackson, Chief Privacy Officer and Senior Counsel,
Sandia National Laboratories
 - Dr. Jason Pruet, Senior Director, Artificial Intelligence Office,
Los Alamos National Laboratory
 - *Moderator:* The Hon. Will Tobey, Center Director, Center for National Security and International Studies, Los Alamos National Laboratory

5:00 PM BREAK

5:45 PM COMPETITIVENESS CONVERSATION RECEPTION

6:15 PM COMPETITIVENESS CONVERSATION DINNER WELCOME

- The Hon. Deborah L. Wince-Smith, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness

6:20 PM FIRESIDE CHAT: THE QUANTUM CONNECTION IN NEW MEXICO

Join us for a strategic conversation on the impact of quantum technology in New Mexico's innovation ecosystem. This chat will explore how a rapidly growing firm can optimize its collaboration with two leading national laboratories. Leaders from each organization will discuss partnership strategies, current trends, and opportunities to drive innovation and economic growth in the region.

- Dr. Deborah Frincke, Associate Laboratories Director, National Security Programs, Sandia National Laboratories
- Dr. Thom Mason, Laboratory Director, Los Alamos National Laboratory
- Dr. Avinash (Nash) Palaniswamy, Chief Commercial Officer, Quantinuum
- *Moderator:* The Hon. Deborah L. Wince-Smith, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness

6:50 PM COMPETITIVENESS CONVERSATION DINNER

8:15 PM DINNER CONCLUDES

Tuesday, May 6, 2025

8:00 AM BREAKFAST AND NETWORKING

9:00 AM THE NEW SPACE RACE: HARNESSING THE OPPORTUNITIES OF AGILE SPACE

The space industry is embarking on a new era of competition and innovation, marked by the emergence of pioneering companies like SpaceX and Virgin Galactic. These new entrants have shaken up the traditional space industry, launching new sectors like space tourism and igniting a global space race among companies and nations. A surge in innovation has also given rise to a proliferation of small satellites, known as CubeSats, which are democratizing access to space. Leaders on this panel will reflect on a decade of progress within the space industry and the opportunities it presents for life on Earth.

Key questions to consider:

- What are the major advances in the space launch and satellite sectors over the past decade, and what innovations and capabilities are on the horizon?
 - How are new space-based capabilities creating opportunities for terrestrial industry and research?
 - As the space industry grows more competitive globally, what role do New Mexico and its institutions have in maintaining the U.S. preeminence in space?
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- Dr. Brad Clevenger, Vice President, Space Systems, Rocket Lab
 - Ms. Casey DeRaad, CEO, New Space Nexus
 - Mr. Gabe Mounce, Director, Technology Engagement Office, Air Force Research Laboratory
 - Col. Jeremy A. Raley, Commander, Phillips Research Site; Director, Space Vehicles Directorate, Air Force Research Laboratory, Kirtland Air Force Base
 - Mr. Randy Trask, Executive Director, Q Station
 - *Moderator:* Ms. Jerriann Garcia, Program Director, Sandia National Laboratories

9:45 AM TECH TALK: DRIVING INNOVATION IN NEW MEXICO — PUBLIC-PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

New Mexico is a leader in federally funded innovation, with state-backed programs that accelerate technology commercialization and economic development. This talk will highlight successful partnerships between the State of New Mexico and U.S. DOE National Laboratories, including efforts to advance quantum information science and programs like the New Mexico Small Business Assistance (NMSBA) and Technology Readiness Gross Receipts (TRGR) tax credit programs. These initiatives demonstrate how strategic collaboration can leverage state and federal investments to drive regional innovation and national competitiveness.

- Mr. David Kistin, Manager, Business Development, Sandia National Laboratories

10:00 AM TECH TALK: HOW ACADEMIA, THE NATIONAL LABORATORIES, AND PRIVATE INDUSTRY SPUR INNOVATION IN THE WILD WEST OF QUANTUM COMPUTING

Quantum computing is a high-risk, high-reward field fueled by the prospects of performing certain valuable computations exponentially faster than their classical alternatives. Progress is driven by a mixture of research performed by academia, national labs, and private industry, with the United States supporting strong efforts across all three. This Tech Talk will explore how each of these groups contributes distinctive and complementary advances in accelerating progress toward building a useful quantum computer.

- Dr. Dan Stick, Senior Scientist, Sandia National Laboratories

10:15 AM BREAK

10:30 AM MANUFACTURING INNOVATION: EMBRACING CHANGE IN THE ERA OF AUTOMATION

Advanced manufacturing exists at the intersection of robotics, automation, 3D printing, data processing, and predictive simulation. It is poised to revolutionize how we design and deliver products, creating abundant opportunities for those ready to embrace the challenges of adopting advanced manufacturing technologies. Leaders and practitioners making up this panel will discuss how advanced manufacturing is unfurling in New Mexico and the United States.

Key questions for consideration:

- What can entrepreneurs and traditional manufacturers learn from the innovation happening in manufacturing technology and processes?
 - What sectors in New Mexico are poised for growth due to advanced manufacturing?
 - What barriers need to be addressed to help technology adoption?
- Mr. Jeffrey Connor, Director, New Mexico Operations, Kansas City National Security Campus
 - Dr. Lonnie Love, Fellow, Sandia National Laboratories
 - Dr. Rajinder Singh, Group Leader, Materials Synthesis and Integrated Devices, Los Alamos National Laboratory
 - Ms. Jennifer Sinsabaugh, CEO, New Mexico MEP
 - *Moderator:* Dr. Mohan Karulkar, Manager, Sandia National Laboratories

11:15 AM MAPPING THE ENABLING CONDITIONS FOR NEW MEXICO'S COMPETITIVENESS STRATEGY FOR THE NEXT 25 YEARS

Building on insights shared throughout the New Mexico Competitiveness Conversation, this leadership panel will examine the enabling conditions essential for the region's competitiveness strategy over the next 25 years, including the intersection of policy, infrastructure, innovation, technology, and workforce development.

Key questions to consider:

- What do you envision as the most significant opportunities and challenges for New Mexico's economic competitiveness over the next 25 years?
 - What steps can leaders in the region take to ensure New Mexico's long-term economic success and prosperity?
 - What key learnings from New Mexico should be elevated to the national level to improve the productivity and innovation capacity of the United States?
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- Mr. Dale Dekker, Founder, Dekker Perich & Sabatini
 - Ms. Tracy Hartzler, President, Central New Mexico Community College
 - Dr. James Holloway, Provost and Executive Vice President, Academic Affairs, University of New Mexico
 - Ms. Kathy Keith, Director, Community Partnerships Office, Los Alamos National Laboratory
 - Ms. Mary Monson, Senior Manager, Technology Partnerships and Business Development, Sandia National Laboratories
 - *Moderator:* The Hon. Deborah L. Wince-Smith, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness

12:00 PM COMPETITIVENESS CONVERSATION CONCLUDES