

Compete Connect

April 2025 Edition

From the CEO's Desk



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

Dear Council Community,

The Council kicked off April in Boulder, CO, with 2025's second edition of the [“Competitiveness Conversations Across America”](#) series. [“The Mountain West—Pioneering Climate Resilience & Quantum Innovation”](#) Competitiveness Conversation — engaging as co-hosts Dr. Ed Seidel, President of the University of Wyoming; Dr. Martin Keller, Director of the National Renewable Energy Laboratory; Dr. Justin Schwartz, Chancellor of the University of Colorado Boulder; Mr. Mike Freeman, CEO & PI of Innosphere Ventures and CO-WY Engine; and Mr. Zachary Yerushalmi, CEO and Regional Innovation Officer of Elevate Quantum — brought together leaders from Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico to uncover bold approaches to place-making innovation emerging across this I-25 corridor. I am grateful to each of these leaders for their partnership.

Immediately following the Boulder-based Competitiveness Conversation, the Council convened CTOs and vice presidents of research from across the United States at Lockheed Martin's Deep Creek and Waterton campuses for the 31st Technology Leadership & Strategy Initiative (TLSI) Dialogue. The Dialogue focused TLSI members on fine tuning the initiative's next major policy document, the *Compact for America* — a strategic, multi-sector blueprint to strengthen U.S. innovation capacity and capability. Be on the lookout soon for this critical report — a

powerful companion to our National Commission report, [Competing in the Next Economy](#).

During the Dialogue, TLSI members and special guests discussed the importance of U.S. tech leadership in the global context, particularly considering China's growing scientific, military, and economic goals. This topic also served as the basis of my recent Forbes.com article, [Who Will Write the Competitiveness Playbook for the Global Future?](#) In it, I argue the United States must safeguard — and expand — its tech and innovation leadership, especially in the face of ever-mounting intellectual property violations, cyberattacks, and other tactics to undermine U.S. leadership.

In April, I had the honor of representing both the Council and our sister organization, the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC), at the tenth [Delphi Economic Forum](#). The Council's Academic Vice-Chair and University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Joan Gabel joined me – alongside Council Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Chad Evans, and other GFCC leaders – to lead a panel on "Strategic Partnerships to Advance Economic Competitiveness and Economic Security."

As April winds down, the Council team is working on a variety of fronts, including preparing for two more upcoming editions of the [Competitiveness Conversations Across America series](#). I hope you and colleagues will plan join us at either or both events (to learn more, please contact Chad Evans at cevens@compete.org):

- First up, on May 5-6 the Council will be in Santa Fe, New Mexico, joining our cohosts Dr. Thom Mason, Director of Los Alamos National Laboratory, and Dr. James Peery, Director of Sandia National Laboratories. Together, we will explore how the New Mexico region is emerging as an innovation hub in AI, quantum technology, space, advanced manufacturing, etc., all centered on the intersection of innovation and national security. [Register here.](#)
- Then, from June 5-6 in Medford, MA, the Council will join Dr. Sunil Kumar, President of Tufts University; Dr. David Greene, President of Colby College; Dr. Robert Johnson, President of Western New England University; and Dr. Marlene Tromp, Incoming President of the University of Vermont, to examine New England's next-generation innovation drivers. [Register here.](#)

A final comment: as you participate in discussions and activities to drive local, regional, and national policies and actions supporting a competitiveness agenda, I encourage you to use and reference two key resources from the Council's policy toolkit:

1. *Competing in the Next Economy: Innovating in the Age of Disruption and Discontinuity* — The Council's flagship "National Commission on Innovation and Competitiveness Frontiers" call to action: 7 high priority – and 48 additional and important – recommendations to bolster U.S. innovation, productivity, and prosperity. [The full report is available here.](#)

2. *The 2025 State of Competitiveness: A New Age of Disruption and Discontinuity* — A white paper, supporting *Competing in the Next Economy*, diving more deeply into six megatrends and drivers shaping the current and future global competitiveness landscape. [The white paper is available here.](#)

Please read and share these reports with your communities, influencers, and policymakers. Thank you for your continued support.

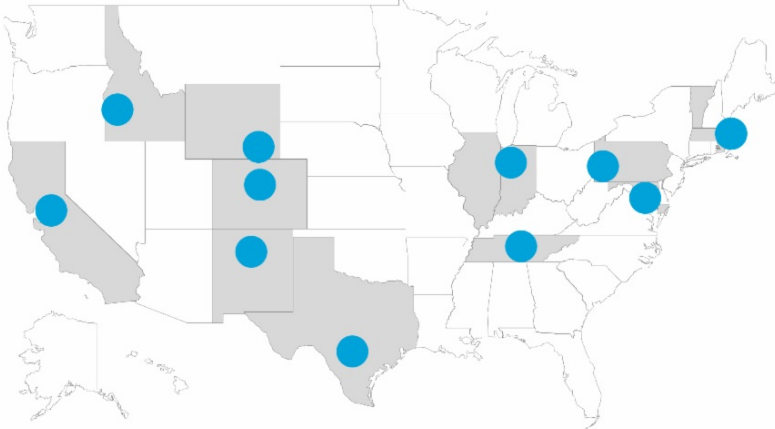
Sincerely,

Deborah L. Wince-Smith
President & CEO
Council on Competitiveness

Council News

National Commission on Innovation & Competitiveness Frontiers

Competitiveness Conversations Across America




2022 Conversation
Jun. 21-22 Laramie, WY

2023 Conversation
Mar. 27-28 Davis, CA

2024 Conversations
Apr. 25-26 Nashville, TN
Aug. 6-8 Boise, ID
Sep. 9 West Lafayette, IN

2025 Conversations
Mar. 10-11 San Antonio, TX
Mar. 30 - Apr. 1 Boulder, CO
May 5-6 Santa Fe, NM
Jun. 5-6 Medford, MA
Oct. 19-21 Pittsburgh, PA

2026 Conversations
Jan. (TBA) Baltimore & College Park, MD



The Council is excited to host five Competitiveness Conversations Across America this year. [Find out more about previous and upcoming Conversations here.](#)

Second Edition of the 2025 “Competitiveness Conversations Across America” Convenes in Boulder

The second in our 2025 series of [Competitiveness Conversations Across America](#) took place March 30-April 1 in Boulder, CO. Council on Competitiveness President and CEO Deborah Wince-Smith, University of Wyoming President Ed Seidel, National Renewable Energy Laboratory Director Martin Keller, Innosphere Ventures and CO-WY Engine CEO & PI Mike Freeman, University of Colorado Boulder Chancellor Justin Schwartz, and CEO and Regional Innovation Officer of Elevate Quantum Zachary Yerushalmi hosted this three-day exploration of how Wyoming, Colorado, and New Mexico are together staking a global leadership claim in quantum computing and environmental resilience. The Conversation featured an exceptional group of leaders, including Colorado Governor Jared Polis and Boulder Mayor Aaron Brockett, who both argued there is no better place to scale advanced technologies like quantum computing and sustainability technology than in the Mountain West.

The impact of the Boulder Competitiveness Conversation will continue even after its close. A full summary report of the Conversation is coming soon, highlighting key learnings and lessons. The Council will also highlight the different panels and speakers in a social campaign. In advance of that, here is a sneak peek at four key takeaways from the Conversation:

1. Unifying three diverse states into one regional innovation ecosystem is difficult, but important for competitiveness in the region and the United States. Wyoming,

Colorado, and New Mexico, linked through the I-25 corridor, each bring distinctive economic strengths and resources, which complement one another. For example, Wyoming and New Mexico are rich in mineral resources, while Colorado offers a large talent pool and greater access to venture capital. Moreover, all three states are top ten energy producers in the nation, and the region boasts a high scientific and technical employment rate of 9 percent (versus 6.9 percent nationally). The region also benefits from a diverse range of perspectives aligned with a shared vision for growth, which has helped drive up new business applications from 75,000 in 2012 to 225,000 in 2024, contributing to a regional GDP of \$680 billion.

MOUNTAIN WEST COMPETITIVENESS CONVERSATION



The Mountain West's innovation ecosystem has distinctive strengths.

Strengths	Areas for Growth
SKILLED LABOR The Mountain West is home to a high concentration of highly educated workers.	WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT Unlocking the region's potential will require continued workforce development for key industries.
BUSINESS ACTIVITY The region's new business creation is outpacing the national average.	ENERGY BUILDOUT Transmission upgrades are needed to take full advantage of the region's renewable resources.
EMERGING INDUSTRIES The Mountain West is a national leader in climate technology and quantum.	DIVERSIFYING INVESTMENT Diversifying capital investment in the region will lessen reliance on federal funding sources.
PARTNERSHIPS The region is home to impactful partnerships like the CO-WY Climate Resilience Engine.	INFRASTRUCTURE Better roads and bridges will lower commuting times and transportation costs.

Photo Credit: Keybridge Research

MOUNTAIN WEST: REGIONAL ECONOMY & INVESTMENT



The Mountain West has experienced significant economic growth in recent years.

US Bureau of Economic Analysis

- The Mountain West's GDP totaled over \$587 billion in 2023 and has grown 22% since 2017; outpacing the national growth rate (18%).
- New business creation in the region has grown 95% since 2017, 33 percentage points higher than the national growth rate (63%).

The region is a national leader in aerospace.

Space Workforce Coalition; New Mexico Economic Development Department

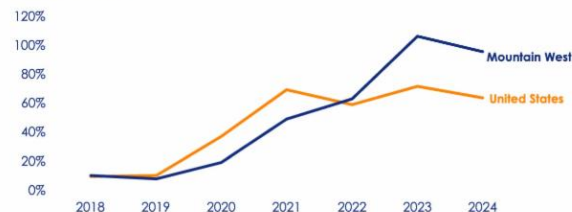
- Colorado leads the nation in private aerospace employment, with nine major aerospace companies and over 500 space-related companies and suppliers operating across the state.
- New Mexico is home to Spaceport America and 15,000 square miles of restricted air space.

Investment is flowing into the Mountain West.

Pitchbook; CLEARPATH; AP News

- The region has outpaced the nation in VC growth since 2017 (130% growth in U.S. vs. 244% growth in Mountain West).
- While Colorado leads the region in VC funding, ranking 5th in the nation, Wyoming has also experienced rapid growth.
- Colorado has the third most obligated funds through the IJA in the nation, over \$689 million.
- Wyoming is home to the \$5 billion Chokecherry-Sierra Madre wind power project, which will be the single largest wind energy project in the US when completed.

Rate of Change in New Business Creation
Relative to 2017



US Census Bureau, Business Formation Statistics
Note: Mountain West region includes Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming.

Photo Credit: Keybridge Research

2. Federally funded centers of innovation, like the NSF Engines and EDA. Hubs, accelerate place-making innovation. The Colorado-Wyoming Climate Resilience NSF Engine and the Elevate Quantum EDA Tech Hub have created new centers of gravity for two important industries of the future, and they have supported the Mountain West's access to capital, talent, and resources. These federally supported

centers of innovation serve as de-risking capital to attract further private investment, multiplying their impact and expanding the innovation capacity of the region. The growth of the Mountain West as a center for quantum computing and climate resilience has also led to greater foreign direct investment, and MOUs with Finland on quantum and the United Kingdom on climate tech.

3. The Mountain West has the chance to be a national leader in Quantum and Sustainable Technology. The concentration of talent, investment, and collaboration in quantum and sustainable technology in the Mountain West is higher than anywhere else in the United States. This co-location of critical players at the university, laboratory, and private sector levels gives the region the opportunity to lay the largest claim to quantum industry of any place in the country, giving it access to all the economic benefits that come with global leadership in these next-generation industries. Companies like Quantinuum who are leading the industry are already located in the Mountain West, along with the researchers that support them.

MOUNTAIN WEST: INDUSTRIES OF THE FUTURE & PARTNERSHIPS



The Mountain West leads the nation in quantum innovation.

McKinsey & Company; Elevate Quantum; Quantum Collaborative

- Quantum computing is estimated to create up to \$2 trillion in economic value by 2035. The Mountain West is well-positioned to lead the industry, boasting the nation's largest quantum workforce, ample private investment, and cutting-edge academic prowess.
- The region is home to the Elevate Quantum tech hub, a public-private collaboration between universities, businesses, and other stakeholders in Colorado and New Mexico designed to strengthen the quantum IT sector in the region by focusing on commercial-ready applications in sensing, computing, networking, and enabling hardware.
- The University of Wyoming joined the Quantum Collaborative with Arizona State University in 2023 to help grow research around the development of quantum algorithms.

The region is a leader in climate resilience.

CO-WY Climate Resilience NSF Engine; University of Colorado Boulder

- The CO-WY Climate Resilience NSF Engine expects to generate \$1.5 billion in regional GDP impact, attract more than \$1B in private capital, and distribute \$80 million in commercialization grants to startups in the climate technology sector.
- University of Colorado Boulder partnered with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory to create the Renewable and Sustainable Energy Institute, which aims to accelerate the transition to a clean, renewable, and sustainable global energy economy.

The Mountain West's Quantum Ecosystem



Elevate Quantum

Photo Credit: Keybridge Research

4. The Mountain West must build a sustainable system for financing innovation-driven growth. With \$200 million from federal initiatives intended to spark innovation in the region, but not to sustain it, the region must generate and/or secure new sources — public, private, and philanthropic — to fuel future growth. The hubs must evolve to become self-sustaining wealth generators.



The Hon. Jared Polis, Governor of Colorado.



From left to right: Mr. Mike Freeman, CEO, Colorado-Wyoming Climate Resilience Engine; Dr. Martin Keller, Director, National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL); Dr. Justin Schwartz, Chancellor, University of Colorado Boulder; Dr. Ed Seidel, President, University of Wyoming; Ms. Wendy Lea, CEO, TechHubNow!; and The Hon. Deborah Wince-Smith, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness.

At TLSI Dialogue 31, Technology Leaders Advance the Compact for America



TLSI leadership in Dialogue to advance a new Compact for America – focusing on a more agile and adaptive defense industrial base – led by the Hon. Deborah Wince-Smith, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness, and the three TLSI co-chairs: The Hon. Patricia Falcone, Deputy Director Science and Technology, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory; Dr. Steven Walker, Vice President and Chief Technology Officer, Lockheed Martin; and Dr. Sally C. Morton, Executive Vice President Knowledge Enterprise, Arizona State University.

On April 2, 2025, members of the Technology Leadership & Strategy Initiative (TLSI) and other key technology leaders gathered at Lockheed Martin’s Deer Creek and Waterton Campuses in Littleton, Colorado, for TLSI Dialogue 31. This gathering offered a full day of structured dialogue sessions primarily centered on advancing and refining the *Compact for America*, TLSI’s strategic framework aimed at strengthening U.S. competitiveness in emerging and foundational technologies. Besides strengthening the *Compact*, participants attended a special lunch presentation by Dr. Tahllee Baynard, Vice President of Ignite at Lockheed Martin Space. As a concluding moment for the day, Council CEO Ms. Wince-Smith honored TLSI Co-Chair and Lockheed Martin Vice President and Chief Technology Officer Dr. Steve Walker with a National Competitiveness Award in recognition of his exceptional leadership. [Read more about TLSI 31 here.](#)

Join us in Santa Fe to See How New Mexico Is Securing Innovation in Energy, AI, and Cybersecurity



Photo Credit: Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Join the Council May 5-6 in Santa Fe, NM, where we will join cohosts Dr. Thom Mason, Director of Los Alamos National Laboratory and Dr. James Peery, Director of Sandia National Laboratories, for the year's third Competitiveness Conversation: "Securing Innovation in New Mexico." There, we will learn how innovators in the Land of Enchantment are meeting the pressing challenges and opportunities that will drive New Mexico's prominence as a leader in energy, AI, cybersecurity, space, and other innovation-driven sectors that underpin U.S. national security. [Visit the Conversation's landing page to learn more.](#)



Conversation Co-hosts: Dr. Thom Mason, Director, Los Alamos National Laboratory; Dr. James Peery, Director, Sandia National Laboratories; The Hon. Deborah Wince-Smith, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness

[Join us in Medford, MA, to See Firsthand New England's Strategies to Grow the Region's Next Generation Innovation Economy](#)

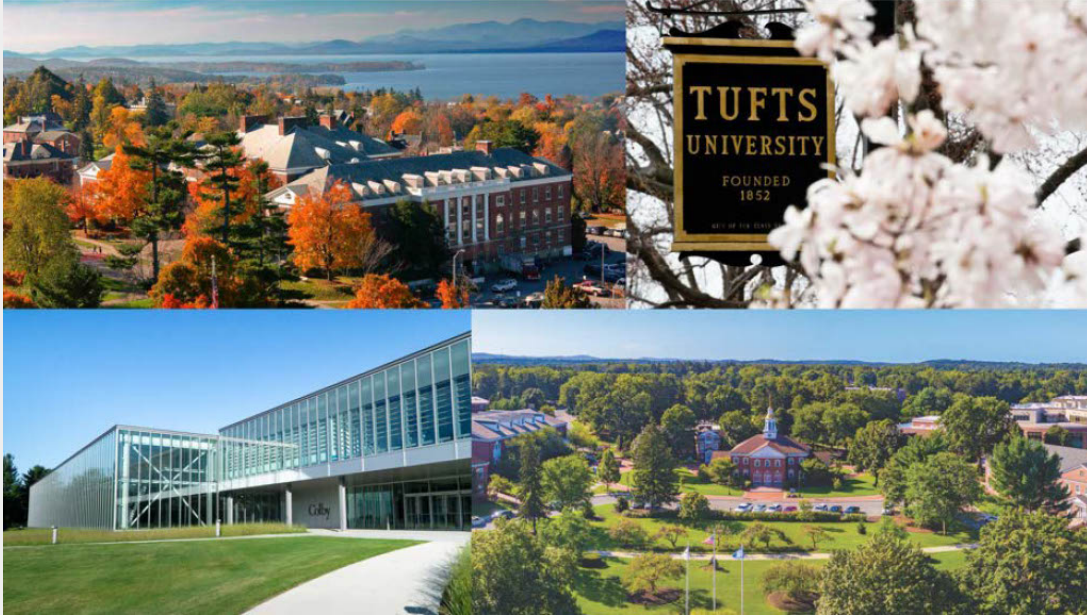
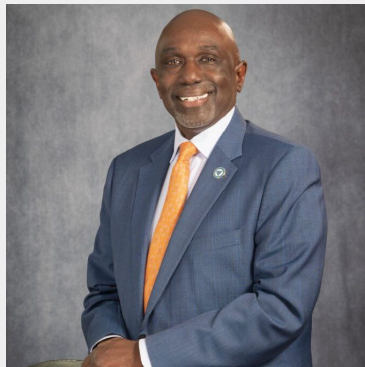


Photo Credit: Tufts University, Colby College, University of Vermont, and Western New England University

[REGISTER NOW](#)

Join the Council June 5-6 at Tufts University in Medford, Massachusetts, alongside Dr. Sunil Kumar, President of Tufts University; Dr. David Greene, President of Colby College; Dr. Robert Johnson, President of Western New England University; and Dr. Marlene Tromp, Incoming President of University of Vermont, for the year's fourth Competitiveness Conversation: "Growing New England's Next Generation Innovation Economy." There, we will learn how innovators in New England are building a more prosperous region through advancements in energy, agriculture, the maritime industry, and financing large-scale and high-risk projects, among other critical topics. [Visit the Conversation's landing page to learn more.](#)



Conversation Co-hosts: Dr. David Greene, President, Colby College; Dr. Robert Johnson, President,

Western New England University Dr. Sunil Kumar, President, Tufts University; Dr. Marlene Tromp, Incoming President, University of Vermont; The Hon. Deborah Wince-Smith, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness.

Join us in Pittsburgh, PA, to See How Pittsburgh has Driven Crucial Innovations in Health, AI, and Technology

SAVE THE DATE

FORGING THE FUTURE
THE INTERSECTION
OF HEALTH, AI & TECH

Join top minds from Pittsburgh and globally that are driving the future of health, AI, and tech.

OCT. 19-21, 2025 | UNIVERSITY OF PITTSBURGH
PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA

GFCC
Global Federation of
Competitiveness Councils

Compete.
Council on
Competitiveness

**University of
Pittsburgh.**

**Carnegie
Mellon
University**

Mark your calendars for the October 19-21, 2025, edition of the [Competitiveness Conversations Across America series](#) in Pittsburgh. University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Joan Gabel, Carnegie Mellon President Farnam Jahanian, and Council on Competitiveness President and CEO Deborah Wince-Smith will co-host this Conversation, focusing on the convergence of health, AI, and range of technologies transforming Greater Pittsburgh. And – in an exciting, first-ever crossover – this Competitiveness Conversation will welcome leadership from the Council’s sister organization, the Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils.

To learn more, contact Council Executive Vice President and COO, [Chad Evans](#).

**Council on Competitiveness and GFCC Leaders in Conversations at DEFX -
Advancing Strategic Partnerships at the 10th Delphi Economic Forum**

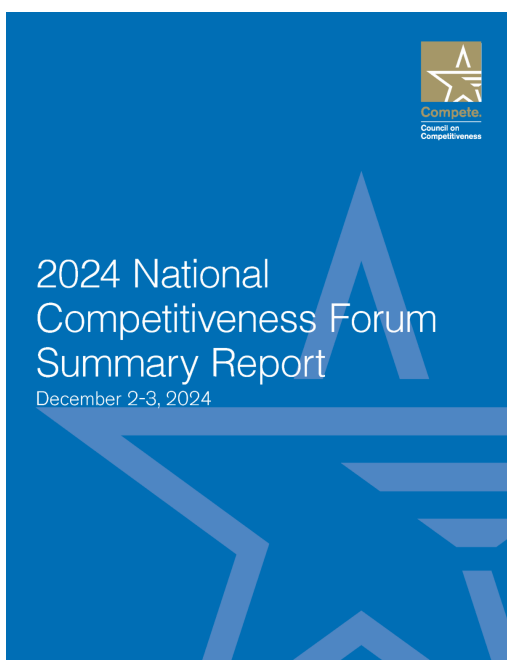


Photo Credit: Athina Chatzipetrou

From left to right: Mr. Chad Evans, Executive Vice President and COO, Council on Competitiveness; Mr. Charles Kiefel, AM, Chairman, Principal Funds Management; Ms. Joan Gabel, Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh and Academic Vice-Chair, Council on Competitiveness; Mr. Christos Megalou, CEO, Piraeus, Greece and Distinguished Fellow, GFCC; and The Hon. Deborah Wince-Smith, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness.

At the 10th anniversary of the Delphi Economic Forum, Council and Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC) leaders – Council on Competitiveness President and CEO, and GFCC President Deborah Wince-Smith; Council Executive Vice President and COO Chad Evans; Council Academic Vice-Chair and University of Pittsburgh Chancellor Joan Gabel; GFCC Vice Chair Charles Kiefel; and Piraeus CEO and GFCC Distinguished Fellow Christos Megalou – led the Forum’s “Strategic Partnerships to Advance Economic Competitiveness and Economic Security” panel. During the conversation, Council and GFCC leaders shared their experiences in shaping, creating, funding, and leading strategic partnerships to address an array of public and private sector goals. [Read more about the tenth Delphi Economic Forum here.](#)

The Council Releases Summary Report for the 2024 Edition of the National Competitiveness Forum



From left to right: The Hon. Deborah L. Wince-Smith, President and CEO, Council on Competitiveness; Ms. Joan Gabel, Chancellor, University of Pittsburgh, and Academic Vice-Chair, Council on

President and CEO, and Business Vice-Chair, Council on Competitiveness; Mr. Charles O. Holliday, Jr., Chair Emeritus, Council on Competitiveness, and Chair, Global Federation of Competitiveness Councils (GFCC); Dr. Thomas Mason, Director, Los Alamos National Laboratory

The Council on Competitiveness's annual National Competitiveness Forum (NCF) brings together the United States' top innovation leaders from business, academia, labor, and the U.S. DOE National Laboratories, and government to discuss the most pressing competitiveness challenges and opportunities facing the nation.

Discussions covered the critical role and future vision for universities and national laboratories, opportunities to modernize the defense industrial base, advancements in high-performance computing, and opportunities surrounding the emerging bioeconomy. Additionally, Bank of America Chair and CEO and Council on Competitiveness Chair Brian Moynihan participated in a fireside chat with Council CEO Deborah Wince-Smith regarding the U.S. economy in this hyper-competitive era of disruption and discontinuity.

The full NCF summary report is now available on [the event landing page, linked here.](#)

The Council Releases Two Reports to Advance U.S. Innovation and Competitiveness



During the NCF in December, the Council's flagship "National Commission on Innovation and Competitiveness Frontier" initiative released [Competing in the Next Economy: Innovating in the Age of Disruption and Discontinuity](#). This seminal report provides seven strategic and urgent recommendations for the nation, along with more than four dozen others — all aiming to modernize the United States' innovation ecosystem for a future in which innovation will be more critical than ever before in history.

And don't miss the companion white paper, [The 2025 State of Competitiveness](#), which explores six mega-trends and key drivers shaping the future of U.S. competitiveness, and which underpin the recommendations outlined in *Competing in the Next Economy*.

[Dig into these resources here.](#)

Council President and CEO Deborah Wince-Smith Calls on the United States to Lead in Economic Competition with China

The world has entered a new era of great power competition. As the United States and China vie for global leadership, the question remains: who will prevail in establishing the competitiveness playbook for the twenty-first century? In her latest Forbes.com article, Council on Competitiveness President and CEO Deborah L. Wince-Smith examines how the United States can rise to the challenge. As China aggressively expands its global influence — securing critical supply chains, shaping international regulations, and advancing its technological dominance — the United States must take decisive action to protect its economic and national security interests. This includes safeguarding intellectual property, countering cyber threats, and enhancing innovation partnerships. [Read the full article here.](#)

Council Community News

The Hon. Michael Kratsios Calls for a New Era of American Innovation



Photo Credit: Council on Foreign Relations

At the inaugural Endless Frontiers tech and policy retreat in Austin, TX, former Council on Competitiveness Distinguished Fellow, the Hon. Michael Kratsios, Director of the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the Science Advisor to the President, delivered a powerful address on what he described as the dawn of a new Golden Age of American innovation. Reflecting on past technological triumphs — from the Space Race to the birth of the Internet — Mr. Kratsios urged renewed national ambition in science and industry. He spoke of the need to rebuild America's innovation ecosystem through strategic investments in emerging technologies, regulatory reform, and strong public-private partnerships. With a call to reject stagnation and recommit to national progress, Mr. Kratsios presented a vision where American ingenuity not only leads at home but sets global standards abroad. [Read Mr. Michael Kratsios' full remarks here.](#)

Dr. Marlene Tromp Set to Serve as the President of the University of Vermont



Photo Credit: University of Vermont

University of Vermont (UVM) has appointed Council member Dr. Marlene Tromp as the twenty-eighth president of the university. A nationally respected humanities scholar and higher education leader, Dr. Tromp currently serves as president of Boise State University, a role she has held since 2019. With three decades of experience in teaching, research, and administration, Dr. Tromp has consistently championed innovation, student success, and community engagement. Dr. Tromp will officially assume her new position later this summer, and she will represent the University of Vermont in the New England Competitiveness Conversation on June 5-6. [Read more about President Tromp's new role here.](#)

Dr. Suresh Garimella and Dr. Tomás Díaz de la Rubia Push for Bold U.S. Investment in Fusion Energy



Dr. Suresh Garimella, President of the University of Arizona and Council Executive Committee Member, along with Dr. Tomás Díaz de la Rubia, Senior Vice President for Research and Innovation at the University of Arizona and a Member of the Council's TLSI, are calling for urgent federal action to secure U.S. leadership in fusion energy. In their recent op-ed in *The Hill*, Dr. Garimella and Dr. Díaz de la Rubia argue that fusion energy represents a historic opportunity to shift from energy scarcity to abundance, while strengthening U.S. economic security and technological leadership. Highlighting the need for a National Fusion Technology Center with a \$15 billion budget, they call for decisive federal investment to secure the United State's lead in advanced energy production. [Read the full op-ed here.](#)

American Nuclear Society Elects MITRE President and CEO Mark Peters as its New Vice President/President-Elect



The American Nuclear Society (ANS) has elected Dr. Mark Peters, president and CEO of MITRE Corporation and member of the Council on Competitiveness, as the new ANS Vice President/President-elect. With a career spanning an array of leadership roles – from having served as Director of the Idaho National Laboratory and, most recently, Executive Vice President at Battelle – Dr. Peters brings extensive experience in U.S. DOE National Laboratory management and nuclear science to ANS leadership. “I am honored to serve as Vice President/President-elect of the American Nuclear Society, an organization at the forefront of advancing nuclear science and technology for the betterment of others” Dr. Peters said. “Together with the ANS community, it is my privilege to champion innovation and collaboration that will support our nation and people.”

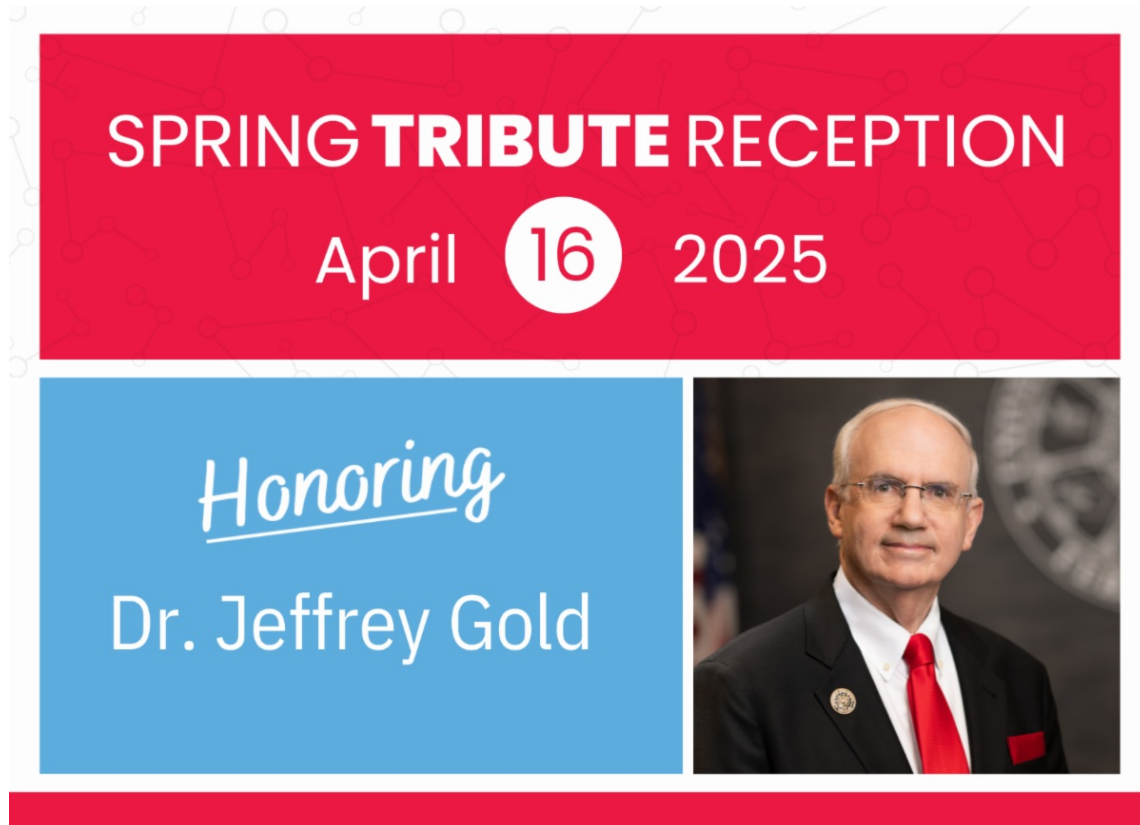
The Edison Awards Honors Arizona State University President Michael Crow With 2025 Edison Achievement Award.



Photo Credit: Edison Awards

The Edison Awards honored Arizona State University (ASU) President Michael Crow with a 2025 Edison Achievement Award, recognizing his pioneering leadership in education, research, and innovation. The Edison Awards celebrated Dr. Crow for smashing the traditional university mold — making education more accessible, technology-driven, and solutions-focused. “Innovation is how we evolve,” Dr. Crow said, “It’s how we enhance the human experience.” [Read more about President Crow’s achievement here.](#)

Nebraska Cures Honors Dr. Jeffrey Gold with Life Saver Award



The graphic features a red top section with the text "SPRING TRIBUTE RECEPTION" in white, followed by "April 16 2025" where "16" is inside a white circle. Below this is a blue section with the text "Honoring Dr. Jeffrey Gold" in white. To the right is a portrait of Dr. Jeffrey Gold, a man with glasses wearing a dark suit, white shirt, and red tie. A red bar is at the bottom.

Photo Credit: Nebraska Cures

Nebraska Cures, a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting biomedical research and education, has honored Dr. Jeffrey P. Gold, M.D., President of the University of Nebraska System and National Commissioner, with its prestigious Life Saver Award. This accolade recognizes individuals who exemplify the organization's mission to advance scientific research and education to enhance quality of life and economic development. [Read more about Dr. Gold’s achievement here.](#)

Quantinum Joins Accelerated Quantum Research Center as a Founding Collaborator

Quantinum is a founding collaborator for the NVIDIA Accelerated Quantum Research Center, leveraging its industry-leading systems and quantum breakthroughs. Quantinum President and CEO and Council Member Rajeeb Hazra has high hopes for the partnership, and believes it will massively accelerate AI research. “By combining ... differentiated solutions ... we’re ... accelerating Generative Quantum AI’s adoption across diverse markets.” [Read more about Quantinum's partnership here.](#)

Dr. Steve Walker Joins Council on Competitiveness as Distinguished Fellow Following Retirement from Lockheed Martin



The Council on Competitiveness proudly names Dr. Steve Walker, former Vice President and Chief Technology Officer of Lockheed Martin, a Distinguished Fellow, recognizing his decades of leadership in national security innovation. Under his leadership, Lockheed Martin made groundbreaking investments in artificial intelligence, 5G networking, autonomy, hypersonic defense, and engineered biology. Dr. Walker's distinguished career spans both government and industry, including his time as Director of DARPA. [Read more about Dr. Walker's announcement here.](#)

Competitiveness News

DARPA Advances Quest for Industrial-Scale Quantum Computing



Photo Credit: DARPA

DARPA has selected nearly 20 companies for Stage A of its Quantum Benchmarking Initiative (QBI), a program aimed at assessing the feasibility of building a fault-tolerant, industrially useful quantum computer by 2033. Participants include a range of startups and tech leaders exploring technologies from superconducting to photonic qubits. Over the next six months, these companies will provide in-depth technical plans, with successful candidates progressing to rigorous evaluation in later stages. QBI builds on DARPA's earlier Underexplored Systems for Utility-Scale Quantum Computing (US2QC) effort and seeks to distinguish realistic, scalable quantum computing approaches from hype. [Learn more about QBI here.](#)

BloombergNEF (BNEF) Report Forecasts U.S. Data Center Power Demand will Double by 2035

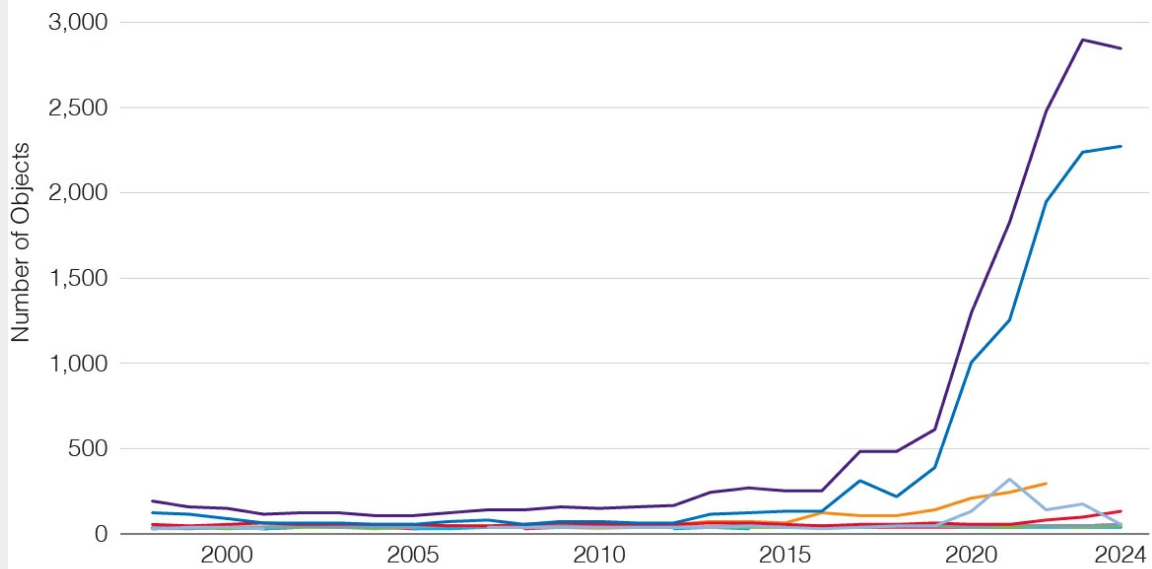
BloombergNEF's latest U.S. Data Center Outlook highlights the transformative impact of AI on the energy sector. The report forecasts U.S. data center power

demand will surge from 34.7 GW today to 78.2 GW by 2035, with hourly electricity consumption nearly tripling to 49.1 GWh. The rise is driven by AI's growing energy needs, compounded by real-world challenges like interconnection delays and lengthy seven-year development timelines. To meet the demands of AI workloads, developers are increasingly focused on sites with available grid capacity, clean power sources, and streamlined permitting processes — often choosing locations near stranded renewables or underused power plants. [Read more about this report here.](#)

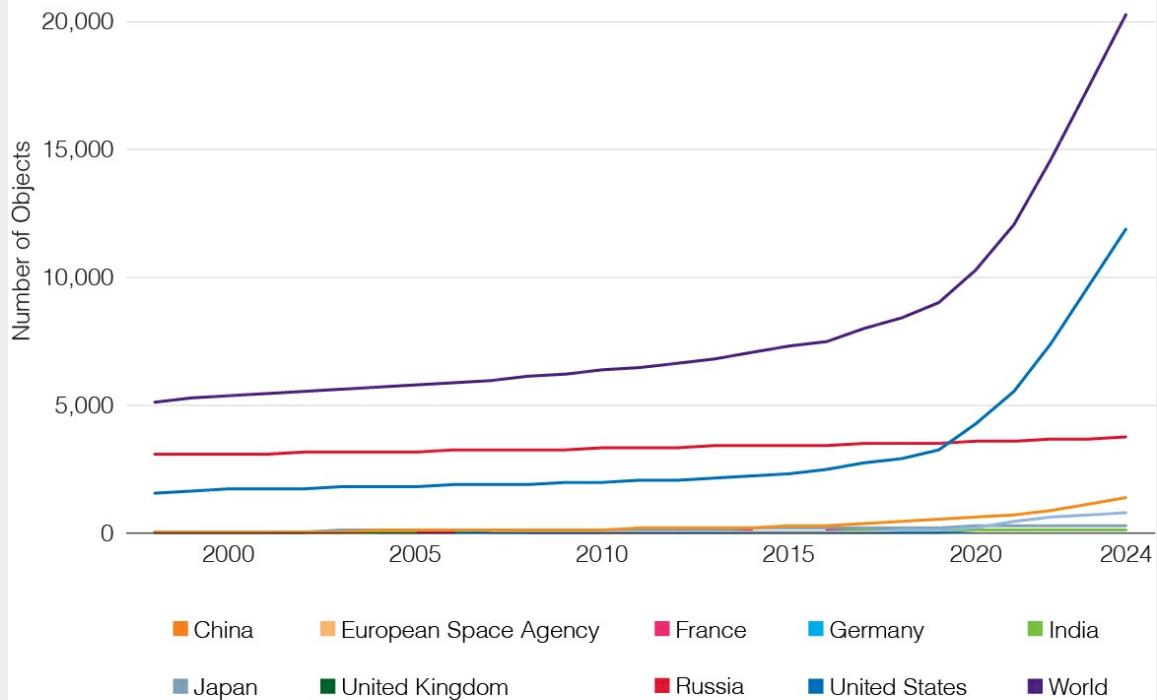
Council Insight

The United States Leads the World in Registered Space Objects

Annual Number of Objects Launched into Space



Cumulative Number of Objects Launched into Space



This includes satellites, probes, landers, crewed spacecrafts, and space station flight elements launched into Earth orbit or beyond.

Source: United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs (2025).

The United States has cemented its dominance in the global space race, accounting for 82 percent of all objects launched into space in 2023 — up from just 46 percent in 2000. Of the 2,664 objects launched globally last year, 2,176 were American. Federal investment and a growing cadre of private sector entrants are driving the surge. In 2023, the U.S. government allocated over \$62 billion to civil and defense-related space activities — more than the rest of the world combined.

The United States' leadership in satellites is more than just a numeric milestone. It reflects the buildout of a critical, sophisticated, innovation-enabling infrastructure in space — one poised to generate considerable economic opportunity and convey a strategic security advantage. Over 60 percent of all active satellites now belong to the United States, supporting everything from GPS navigation and weather

forecasting to encrypted military communications.

This dominance has serious terrestrial implications. Control over satellite networks enhances U.S. military surveillance, early missile detection, and global internet coverage. According to the Bureau of Economic Analysis, [the American space sector generated approximately \\$142.5 billion in revenue in 2023](#), securing leadership in a market that [Morgan Stanley projects to reach \\$1 trillion by 2040](#). As the competition for limited orbital slots and radio frequencies intensifies, the United States' numerical edge enables it not just to operate more freely but also to shape the regulatory and security frameworks that will govern space for decades to come.

Next month, the Council, in partnership with Los Alamos National Laboratory and Sandia National Laboratories, will discuss the continued development of the space economy at our third Competitiveness Conversation of 2025: "Securing Innovation in New Mexico" from May 5-6. To find out more, please visit [the Conversation webpage](#).

New to the Community



Dr. Simon Atkinson
Vice Chancellor for Research
University of California, Davis

Dr. Atkinson joins as a member of the TLSI.

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