

**MINUTES
of the
FIFTH MEETING
of the
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**October 30, 2023
Stan Fulton Athletics Center's Villanueva Victory Club
New Mexico State University
1815 Wells Street
Las Cruces**

**October 31, 2023
War Eagles Air Museum
8012 Airport Road
Santa Teresa**

The fifth meeting of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee was called to order by Representative Debra M. Sariñana, chair, on October 30, 2023 at 10:37 a.m. at the Stan Fulton Athletics Center's Villanueva Victory Club at New Mexico State University (NMSU) in Las Cruces.

Present

Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Chair
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Rep. Jason C. Harper
Sen. Michael Padilla
Sen. Harold Pope
Sen. William P. Soules

Absent

Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill, Vice Chair
Sen. Craig W. Brandt
Sen. William F. Burt
Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez
Rep. Charlotte Little

Advisory Members

Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto (10/30)
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez

Rep. Christine Chandler
Rep. Gail Chasey
Rep. Jenifer Jones
Rep. Willie D. Madrid
Sen. Bill B. O'Neill
Rep. Larry R. Scott
Rep. Linda Serrato

Guest Legislator

Sen. Carrie Hamblen (10/30)

(Attendance dates are noted for those members not present for the entire meeting.)

Staff

Mark Edwards, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Ralph Vincent, Systems Consultant, LCS
Markela Clinton, Committee Coordinator, LCS

Guests

The guest list is in the meeting file.

Handouts

Handouts and other written testimony are in the meeting file and posted on the legislature's website.

References to Webcast

The time reference noted next to each agenda item in this document is cross-referenced to the webcast of the committee meeting, which can be found at www.nmlegis.gov, under the "Webcast" tab. The presentations made and committee discussions for agenda items can be found on the recorded webcast for this meeting.

Monday, October 30 — Las Cruces**Welcome and Introductions (10:53 a.m.)**

Representative Sariñana welcomed the committee, and members of the committee and staff introduced themselves.

Welcome and NMSU Status Update (10:58 a.m.)

Jay Gogue, Ph.D., interim president, NMSU, presented on the campus changes and student advantages that have been implemented, including federal programs; science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) initiatives; research and development programs; and water desalination programs.

Cybersecurity Office and Department of Information Technology Status Update (11:11 a.m.)

Raja Sambandam, acting secretary and state chief information security officer, Department of Information Technology, provided an update on the current state of the Cybersecurity office, department changes, recruitment efforts, the current budget and funding requests. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20103123%20Item%202%20DoIT%20and%20Office%20of%20Cybersecurity%20Update.pdf>.

NMSU STEM + Education Research Institute (1:20 p.m.)

Michele Shuster, Ph.D., interim associate dean, College of Arts and Sciences, NMSU, introduced a system called STEM + Educational Research Institute (SERI). Erika Acosta, specialist, STEM Outreach Center, NMSU, highlighted the synergistic research opportunities

through the STEM Outreach Center and SERI programs. Patricia Sullivan, Ph.D., associate dean, College of Engineering, NMSU, discussed the Workforce Accelerator program. Amanda Peel, Ph.D., assistant professor, School of Teacher Preparation, Administration and Leadership, NMSU, spoke about building and implementing computational literacy. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20103023%20Item%203%20NMSU%20SERI.pdf>.

Technology Enhancement Fund: Elements for a Thriving Research and Technology Development Economic Sector (2:03 p.m.)

Gerald Hoehne, acting deputy secretary and director, Capital Outlay, Higher Education Department (HED); Luis Cifuentes, Ph.D., vice president, Research, NMSU; Michael Doyle, Ph.D., vice president, Research, New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NM Tech), Ellen Fisher, Ph.D., vice president, Research and Economic Development, University of New Mexico (UNM); and Hengameh Raissy, Pharm.D., research professor, UNM School of Medicine, and interim vice president, Research, UNM Health Sciences Center, presented on the economic and science research sector impacts of the Technology Enhancement Fund, research programs and NM Tech's Office of Innovation Commercialization. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=10/30/2023&ItemNumber=4>.

Tracking Student Progress in STEM Curricula, Grade School Through College: New Mexico Longitudinal Data System Study (NMLDS) (3:02 p.m.)

Joseph Leakakos, project lead, NMLDS, and database and systems administrator, Planning and Research Division, HED; Kathryn Zenoni, project lead, NMLDS, and senior business intelligence analyst, Information Technology Services Division, HED; and Conrad Cordova, deputy chief information officer, Public Education Department, presented on the development of a statewide data system to track the growth and retention of student enrollment of New Mexico schools and how well students transition to the workforce. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20103023%20Item%205%20NM%20Longitudinal%20Data%20System%20Study.pdf>.

Tuesday, October 31 — Santa Teresa

Welcome to Santa Teresa: Status Updates on Business Recruitment, Union Pacific Railroad Operations and New Technology at the Port of Entry (9:15 a.m.)

Jerry Pacheco, president, The Border Industrial Association, and executive director, International Business Accelerator, presented on import-export partnerships, both international and domestic. He also explained trade routes, construction projects and business partnerships that benefit the state. J.D. Bullington, lobbyist, Union Pacific Railroad Company, presented on

the Union Pacific Railroad Company's expanding business and the innovations being implemented to make the company's trains safer, more fuel efficient and just as reliable.

Office of Broadband Access and Expansion Status Update (10:40 a.m.)

Drew Lovelace, acting director, Office of Broadband Access and Expansion, and Ovidiu Viorica, regional manager, Public School Facilities Authority, gave a status update on the state's broadband infrastructure and mapping program. They also described the physical structure of broadband cables and how the cables are bringing more consistent broadband service to more areas of New Mexico. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20103023%20Item%207%20OBAE.pdf>.

NMSU Water Desalination Feasibility Study for Santa Teresa (1:04 p.m.)

Pei Xu, Ph.D., professor, Department of Civil Engineering, NMSU, discussed the population growth trajectory for Santa Teresa and the need for a reliable water management system that can provide high quality water to the area. She also clarified that brackish water is in high abundance in the Santa Teresa area, meaning that water desalination will become a building block for the future of the region. The presentation can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/handouts/STTC%20103023%20Item%208%20Santa%20Teresa%20Brackish%20water%20desalination.pdf>.

Tour of Union Pacific Intermodal Facility and Santa Teresa Industrial Park (Committee Members and Staff Only) (1:43 p.m.)

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 4:30 p.m.