

Revised: June 22, 2026

**TENTATIVE AGENDA
for the
SECOND MEETING
of the
SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

**June 23-24, 2026
Navajo Technical University
Lowerpoint Road, New Mexico Highway 371
Crownpoint**

Tuesday, June 23

- 10:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
—Senator Heather Berghmans, Chair
—Representative Debra M. Sariñana, Vice Chair
- 10:15 a.m. (1) **Welcome and Status Update**
—Elmer Guy, Ph.D., President, Navajo Technical University (NTU)
- 11:30 a.m. (2) **Sampling the Variety of Student Research at NTU**
A. An Innovative Approach to Sustainable Leafy Greens in Controlled Water Environment
—Latasha Chiquito, Biology Student, NTU
B. Radon Level Monitoring and Evaluation Around NTU Premises
—Blaine Nez, Environmental Science Student, NTU
C. Advances in Multi-Substrate Electrochemical Sensors for Portable Analytical Applications
—Justin Platero, Chemistry Research Assistant, NTU
- 12:30 p.m. **Lunch**
- 1:30 p.m. (3) **Examples of Microbiological Studies at NTU**
A. Enhancing Traditional Medicine: Evaluating Ethanol Extraction of Navajo Tea (*Thelesperma subnudum*) for Antimicrobial Efficacy Against Escherichia coli
—Della Wilson, Biology Student, NTU
B. Uranium Tailings and Their Influence on Antimicrobial Resistance to Clinical Antibiotics
—David Willie, Biology Student, NTU
- 2:30 p.m. (4) **Update on Regional Broadband Development**
—Jeff Lopez, Director, Office of Broadband Access and Expansion

3:30 p.m. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

4:30 p.m. **Recess**

Wednesday, June 24

10:00 a.m. (5) **Highlighting Two NTU Research and Engineering Projects Assisting Navajo Communities**
A. Driven Design of a Standalone PV System to Support Residential Loads on the Navajo Nation
—Conrad Begay, Pre-Engineering Instructor, School of Engineering, Math and Technology, NTU
B. Soilless Hydroponics for Navajo Communities: An Alternative to Cropping Uranium-Contaminated Soil
—Irene Ane-Anyangwe, Ph.D., Biology Professor and Chair, School of Science, NTU

11:00 a.m. (6) **Impacts of Heat on Traditional Lifeways**
—Melissa Riley, Ph.D., Chief Executive Officer, Native Community Development Associates
—Stephanie Moraga-McHaley, Board Member, Healthy Climate New Mexico

12:00 noon **Public Comment***

12:30 p.m. **Lunch**

1:30 p.m. **Tour of NTU Advanced Manufacturing Lab and Other Facilities (Legislators and Committee Staff Only)**

2:30 p.m. **Adjourn**

*Members of the public may make virtual public comments during the public comment period of the meeting by following the instructions under the "Additional Information" section of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee [web page](#).

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