

Revised: September 17, 2025

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

**September 22-23, 2025
Mesalands Community College, Building A
911 South Tenth Street
Tucumcari**

Monday, September 22

- 9:00 a.m. **Call to Order and Introductions**
—Representative Debra M. Sariñana, Chair
- 9:10 a.m. (1) **[Mesalands Community College \(MCC\) Welcome and Overview of Major Programs](#)**
—Allen Moss, Ed.D., President, MCC
—Nathaniel Alexander, Wind Instructor, North American Wind Research and Training Center (NAWRTC), MCC
—Terrill Stowe, Wind Instructor, NAWRTC, MCC
—Shannon Fries, Director, Nursing and Education, MCC
—Axel Hungerbuehler, Ph.D., Professor, Paleontology and Physical Sciences, and Dinosaur Museum Curator, MCC
- 11:00 a.m. (2) **[Department of Information Technology Status Update](#)**
—Manny Barreras, Secretary, Department of Information Technology
- 12:00 noon **Lunch**
- 1:00 p.m. (3) **[The Western Transmission Consortium](#)**
—Ray Gifford, Managing Partner, Denver Office, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP
—Matthew Larson, Partner, Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP
- 2:00 p.m. (4) **[New Mexico's Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research \(NM EPSCoR\) Update](#)**
—Ganesh "Gunny" Balakrishnan, Ph.D., Director, NM EPSCoR; Principal Investigator, New Mexico Sustainable, Modular, Adaptive, Resilient and Transactive Grid Center
—Selena Connealy, Ph.D., Associate Director, NM EPSCoR
- 3:00 p.m. (5) **[Spaceport America Update](#)**
—Scott McLaughlin, Executive Director, Spaceport Authority

4:00 p.m. **Tour of MCC, Including Wind Technician Training Facilities***

Tuesday, September 23

9:00 a.m. (6) **[Water, Agriculture and Energy Research Activities at Eastern New Mexico University](#)**
—John Montgomery, Ph.D., Assistant Vice President for Research and Graduate School Dean, Eastern New Mexico University

10:00 a.m. (7) **[Cybersecurity Needs at Institutions of Higher Learning — New Mexico Council for Higher Education Computing/Community Services](#)**
—Duane Arruti, Chief Information Officer (CIO), University of New Mexico
—Victor Leon, CIO, Central New Mexico Community College
—Michael Acosta, CIO, Western New Mexico University
—Raja Sambandam, State Chief Information Security Officer (CISO), Cybersecurity Office
—Isaac Bush, CIO, Higher Education Department

11:00 a.m. (8) **[Cybersecurity Office: Looking at 2026 and Beyond](#)**
—Raja Sambandam, State CISO, Cybersecurity Office

12:00 noon **Lunch**

1:00 p.m. (9) **[Water Reuse Project and Bull Testing Program at Agricultural Experiment Station Update](#)**
—Jay Lillywhite, Ph.D., Associate Dean and Director, Agricultural Experiment Station, College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, New Mexico State University (NMSU)
—Marcy Ward, Extension Livestock Specialist, Range Improvement Task Force, NMSU
—Leonard Lauriault, Former Research Director, Rex E. Kirksey Agricultural Science Center at Tucumcari, NMSU

2:00 p.m. (10) **[Department of Public Safety Intelligence-Led Policing Project](#)**
—W. Troy Weisler, Chief, New Mexico State Police Division, Department of Public Safety

3:00 p.m. (11) **[Virtual Power Plants: Using Distributed Generation and Storage to Increase Power Grid Flexibility and Meet Demand Fluctuations](#)**
—Jim DesJardins, Executive Director, Renewable Energy Industries Association of New Mexico

4:00 p.m. **Public Comment****

4:15 p.m. **Adjourn**

*Committee members and committee staff only.

**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](#).