

Science is US

STEM and the Future of the Workforce

Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee
October 26, 2020

Rachel Kerestes
Executive Director

About

Science is US is a foundation - supported effort that brings together a diverse group of science, engineering, industry, higher education and labor organizations to galvanize a broad, bipartisan political base of support for science and technology

Steering Committee

AAAS

American Association for
the Advancement of
Science

ACS

American Chemical Society

AGU

American Geophysical
Union

AIA

Aerospace Industries
Association

APS

American Physical Society

COSSA

Consortium of Social
Science Associations

Council on Competitiveness

FASEB

Federation of American
Societies for Experimental
Biology

IEEEUSA

Institute of Electrical and
Electronics Engineers - USA

SIA

Semiconductor Industry
Association

What are our goals?

We are working towards two public policy goals:

- 1. Encouraging robust federal support for research**
- 2. Improving science - and evidence - based decision - making in public policy development**

Science is US and New Mexico

The opportunity

- Many New Mexicans may not realize that STEM drives New Mexico's economy beyond the influence of the government labs and military
- There are a wide variety of STEM jobs in New Mexico available for individuals with a range of education —the majority of which do not require a bachelor's degree
- Strong potential to work collaboratively —business and government —to diversify New Mexico's economy

STEM and the American Workforce

We wanted to get a better sense of how
STEM contributes to the U.S. economy and
the economy of the states

We found that STEM powers U.S. economic
growth and creates jobs for Americans of
all backgrounds and levels of education

Total STEM contributions to New Mexico

We found that the majority of New Mexico's employment, economic activity and tax revenues are supported by STEM:

56%
of New
Mexico jobs

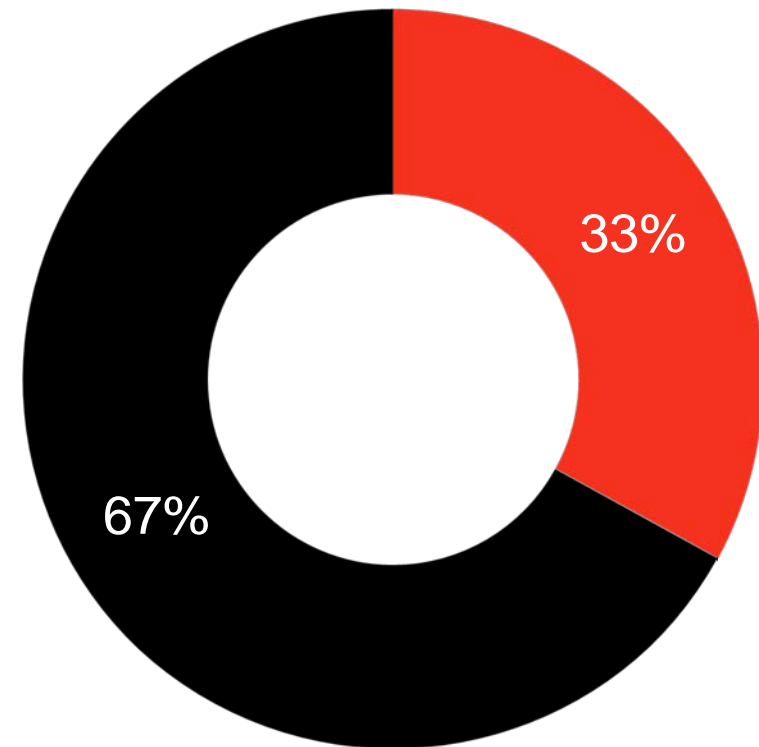
\$5.54 billion
in New Mexico
state and local
tax revenues

60%
of New
Mexico's GDP

Direct STEM employment in the New Mexico workforce

Direct STEM employment accounts for one-third of New Mexico jobs

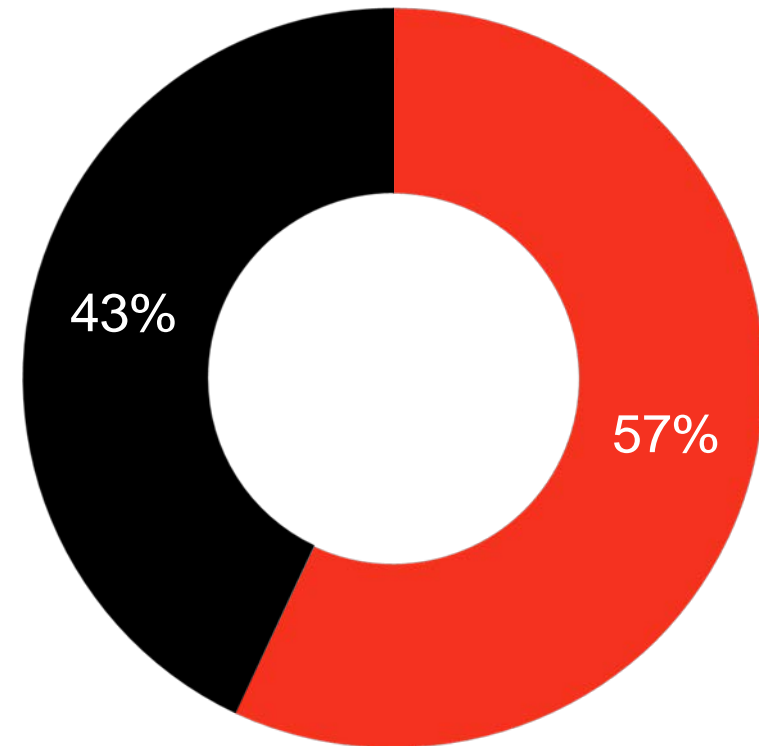
- Direct STEM Jobs
- Indirect STEM Jobs & Non-STEM Jobs



New Mexico STEM employment by level of education

57% of New Mexico STEM jobs are held by individuals with less than a bachelor's degree

- Less Than a Bachelor's Degree
- Bachelor's Degree or Higher



Who is a STEM Professional?

Biochemists

Mechanics

Pharmacists

Anthropologists

**Mental health
counselors**

Architects

Nurses

Electricians

Coders

**Museum
technicians**

Logisticians

Math teachers

Policy analysts

Bookkeepers

**Radio
operators**

How can STEM lead New Mexico forward?

Mitigating the pandemic

- Discovering a vaccine and therapeutics
- Contact tracing and epidemiology
- IT systems, logistics

Building the future

- Opportunity regardless of educational attainment
- Higher salaries
- Innovation – opportunity feedback loop

How can New Mexico maximize STEM?

- **Change the conversation —there are a wide -range of STEM jobs available in New Mexico today regardless of level of education and STEM can drive New Mexico’s job market and economy in the future**
- **Take the lead—prioritize STEM in education, workforce, economic development and policy**

Science is US

Thank you

Rachel Kerestes

Executive Director, Science is US

rkerestes@aaas.org



@Science_Is_US