

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

**August 28-29, 2024
Joseph A. Fidel Center, Ballrooms B and C
New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology
1 Olive Lane
Socorro**

The third meeting of the Science, Technology and Telecommunications Committee was called to order by Representative Debra M. Sariñana, chair, on August 28, 2024 at 10:07 a.m. in the Joseph A. Fidel Center at the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology (NM Tech) in Socorro.

Present

Rep. Debra M. Sariñana, Chair
Rep. Janelle Anyanonu
Sen. William F. Burt (8/28)
Rep. Joy Garratt
Rep. Jason C. Harper (8/28)
Rep. Charlotte Little
Sen. Michael Padilla
Sen. Harold Pope
Sen. William P. Soules

Absent

Sen. Siah Correa Hemphill, Vice Chair
Sen. Craig W. Brandt
Rep. Joshua N. Hernandez

Advisory Members

Rep. Willie D. Madrid
Sen. Nancy Rodriguez

Rep. Christine Chandler
Rep. Gail Chasey
Rep. Yanira Gurrola
Rep. Jenifer Jones
Sen. Bill B. O'Neill
Sen. Shannon D. Pinto
Rep. Larry R. Scott
Rep. Linda Serrato

Guest Legislator

Sen. Crystal Brantley (8/29)

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

Staff

Mark Edwards, Bill Drafter, Legislative Council Service (LCS)
Sabina Gaynor, Staff Attorney, LCS
Ralph Vincent, Systems Consultant, 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.

Wednesday, August 28

Welcome and Introductions (10:07 a.m.)

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

Welcome and the 5G Programs at NM Tech (10:15 a.m.)

David Manzano, director, Government Affairs, NM Tech, welcomed the committee and discussed the education and research activities of the university. Carlos R. Romero, associate vice president, Office of Research, NM Tech, described the 5G test environment that has been implemented by NM Tech in Playas. Nick Tenorio, senior research program manager, Institute for Complex Additive Systems Analysis, NM Tech, discussed the university research activities in Playas that support United States Department of Defense projects.

Overview of New Research at NM Tech (11:28 a.m.)

Mike Doyle, Ph.D., vice president for research, NM Tech; Stacy Timmons, Ph.D., associate director, Hydrogeology, Bureau of Geology and Mineral Resources, NM Tech; and Robert S. Balch, Ph.D., director, Petroleum Recovery Research Center, NM Tech, provided examples of research projects at the university. They discussed current partnerships and project funding needs. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=8/28/2024&ItemNumber=2>.

Approval of Minutes (12:36 p.m.)

Upon a motion made and duly seconded, and without any objections, the committee approved the minutes of the July 29-30, 2024 meeting.

Supercomputing Challenge (1:10 p.m.)

Tom Bowles, Ph.D., member, Board of Directors, Supercomputing Challenge, described the challenge program and the achievements made in developing opportunities for students. He

made a funding request for \$200,000 to support the Supercomputing Challenge at NM Tech, starting in fiscal year 2026.

Space and Astronomy Research and Developments (1:28 p.m.)

Van Romero, Ph.D., vice president of special research programs, NM Tech, discussed projects at NM Tech exploring technologies used in space research, such as embedded sensors, additive manufacturing, satellite technologies and adaptive electro-optics. He also described the work being done at the Magdalena Ridge Observatory Interferometer. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=8/28/2024&ItemNumber=4>.

Recess

The meeting recessed at 2:25 p.m., and the committee members toured the National Radio Astronomy Observatory.

Thursday, August 29

Reconvene

The meeting reconvened at 9:05 a.m.

Spaceport Authority Update (9:05 a.m.)

Scott McLaughlin, executive director, Spaceport Authority, and Francisco Pallares, Ph.D., director of business development, Spaceport Authority, provided an update on the current activities of Spaceport America, highlighting the capital improvements and budget requests. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=8/28/2024&ItemNumber=5>.

Artificial Intelligence (AI) Use in the Provision of Medical Services: Benefits and Ethical Concerns (10:05 a.m.)

Karen Carson, M.D., F.A.A.P., described applications currently being used in health care that utilize AI technologies. She discussed treatment possibilities but also regulatory challenges that AI poses. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=8/28/2024&ItemNumber=6>.

Water Data Act Update (11:03 a.m.)

Dr. Timmons provided an update of the data sharing practices developed as a result of the Water Data Act (2019). She also described the work of the Water Data Act implementation team. The presentation materials can be found here:

<https://www.nmlegis.gov/Committee/Handouts?CommitteeCode=STTC&Date=8/28/2024&ItemNumber=7>.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Adjournment

There being no further business before the committee, the meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.