

NEW MEXICO ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT

# EMPOWER & COLLABORATE

New Mexico's Economic Path Forward

## October 2021

A Summary of Findings & Recommendations from the Center for Innovation Strategy & Policy @ SRI International





### **SRI International**<sup>®</sup>

Empower & Collaborate: New Mexico's Economic Path Forward was developed by Claire Lecornu, Paul Liu, Emily Mellicant, Roland Stephen, and J.R. Sullivan at the Center for Innovation Strategy & Policy at SRI International. The authors of this report thank EDD Secretary Alicia Keyes, Deputy Secretary Jon Clark, and Johanna Nelson, as well as the many other EDD staff and others who provided support for this report.

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## The Mission Why This Strategy, and Why Now?

New Mexico enters a new decade on the precipice of transformation. In the past, limited economic diversification has provided inconsistent statewide growth and fewer economic opportunities for many New Mexicans. While regional competitors have actively pursued opportunities in new industries, leading to the creation of higher-skill, higher-wage jobs, New Mexico has struggled to capitalize upon its immense assets to accelerate long-term growth in a wider variety of industries. Though this challenge has existed for New Mexico for many years, the compounding effects of the state's delayed recovery from the Great Recession and the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 have intensified the need for a long-term, coordinated, and comprehensive strategy for economic development and diversification.

In early 2021, in a markedly different approach from New Mexico's response to the Great Recession, the New Mexico Economic Development Department (EDD) determined the need for a guiding strategy that not only identified ways to jumpstart New Mexico's near-term recovery, but also the state's long-term transformation into a more diversified, resilient, and inclusive economy. To assist in crafting this strategy, EDD hired SRI International, which engaged with over 100 public, private, and non-profit organizations—and conducted extensive quantitative data analysis—to design an actionable, long-term economic development and diversification strategy.

Ultimately, the mission of this strategy is to reimagine New Mexico's approach to economic development, beginning with building the capabilities necessary to facilitate statewide collaboration on common goals, like economic growth, inclusion, and workforce readiness. The diversification agenda outlined in this document is rooted in the nine target industries identified by EDD, but the recommendations go beyond specific industry needs to address the broader challenges facing New Mexico, which are discussed in greater detail below. These recommendations are best viewed as a roadmap, one that enables New Mexico to build upon its current momentum to create a robust, diverse economy that provides greater opportunities for residents and businesses of New Mexico's urban, rural, and tribal communities. New Mexico's economic transformation cannot happen immediately, nor can it be achieved by one agency alone. With support from stakeholders throughout the state, though, actions can be taken to begin a new era in New Mexico.



## The Findings Trends in New Mexico's State & Regional Economies

SRI's analysis of New Mexico's communities and economy falls into four core exercises: (1) New Mexico's State & Regional Economies; (2) New Mexico's Target Industries; (3) New Mexico's Innovation Ecosystem; and (4) New Mexico's State & Regional Assets. SRI's analytical approach included quantitative data analysis from state, federal, and proprietary data sources, as well as qualitative data analysis through an extensive stakeholder interview and survey process.

Stakeholders in New Mexico are united in their excitement for the state's future. Opportunity abounds in New Mexico where many of the components for economic growth and prosperity remain present. Nevertheless, stakeholders identified several challenges that impede the state's ability to capitalize on these opportunities, and the quantitative data supports many of these observations. In general, obstacles for New Mexico's economic future fall into one of **six challenge areas**:

- 1. Lack of collaboration between economic development stakeholders
- 2. Difficulty attracting and retaining talent in urban, rural, and tribal communities
- 3. Misalignment between higher education and industry
- 4. Disengagement of socioeconomically disadvantaged communities in planning processes
- 5. Public-sector dominance in New Mexico's innovation ecosystem
- 6. Concentration of economy in a few key industries

Mitigating these challenges must be a priority for state, local, industry, and community stakeholders, and the activities of these stakeholders must be coordinated to best achieve a diversified and resilient economy. Greater discussion of these challenges is found below.

## Challenge 1. Lack of collaboration between economic development stakeholders

As a state with a large geographic footprint but a comparatively smaller population, New Mexico has traditionally utilized a decentralized, ad hoc approach to economic development. Local and tribal governments have historically been encouraged to lead development within their jurisdictions while statewide organizations have played a minimized role. While this approach prioritizes the needs of local communities, it relies heavily upon local organizations'



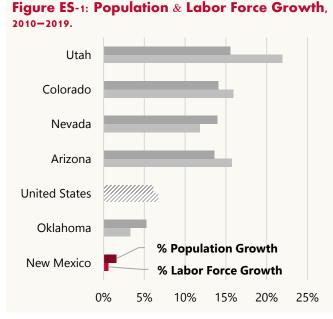
capacities to support economic development projects, leading to some regions of the state excelling in growing their economies while other regions have fallen behind.

Over time, the differences in local and regional capabilities, in addition to the absence of a cohesive statewide strategy for economic development, has led to a patchwork of programs and initiatives designed to address different facets of community or economic development challenges in New Mexico's regions. While in some cases this approach enables local communities to address challenges with local priorities in mind, in other instances this approach can lead to a duplication of efforts and, at times, competing interests between different actors in New Mexico's economic development ecosystem. Ensuring that interests are aligned at the state, regional, local, and tribal levels will best provide New Mexico with a strong foundation upon which to launch strategic initiatives and leverage resources, such as those outlined in this plan.

## Challenge 2. Difficulty attracting and retaining talent in urban, rural, and tribal communities

New Mexicans are well aware of the benefits of living in New Mexico, including the state's immense outdoor assets and relatively affordable cost of living. Nevertheless, data indicate that each of New Mexico's seven council of government regions has struggled to attract new residents, with each region relying heavily upon natural increase (i.e., new births) to grow their populations. Stakeholders had several theories to explain this struggle, including underperforming K-12 education systems, higher crime rates, and increasing housing costs in certain communities.

Despite being positioned in the center of one of the fastest growing regions of the United States, New Mexico has not benefited from the significant influx of young families and professionals seen in neighboring states like Utah and Colorado. For example, from 2010 to 2019 New Mexico's population and labor force grew by 2% and 0.6% respectively, while peer states like Utah (16% and 22%) and Colorado (14% and 16%) grew at far quicker rates (see *Demographics: New Mexico's Changing Communities* in the full report for a detailed discussion of demographic trends in New Mexico).

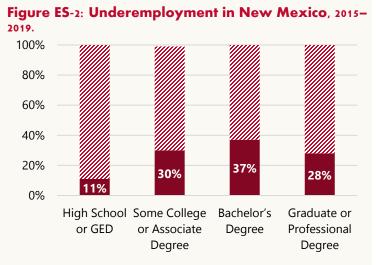




Stakeholders in New Mexico identified several trends influencing the slow population growth in New Mexico. While many of these challenges relate to economic opportunity for younger skilled professionals, others concern the appeal of New Mexico's urban and rural communities. While New Mexico is generally known for its comparative affordability, housing costs are an increasing concern for many residents of the state's urban core, where new housing developments have been slow to recover from the Great Recession, driving up the living costs in cities like Albuquerque and Santa Fe. However, New Mexico's rural and tribal communities, where a notable portion of the state's population resides, face additional challenges like integration into physical and digital infrastructures. Ensuring that New Mexico's existing toolkit of economic and community development programs meets the needs of urban, rural, and tribal communities will help to maximize the efficacy of the investments the state makes in these communities.

#### Challenge 3: Misalignment between higher education and industry

For a state with a smaller population, New Mexico maintains an extensive network of 2- and 4year higher education institutions. Stakeholders noted that some of these institutions, such as Central New Mexico Community College, have been highly effective at engaging with industry and designing industry-relevant curricula. However, stakeholders also noted that many of New Mexico's higher education and training institutions are increasingly disconnected from the needs of industry, and the data support this assertion. Though New Mexico aims to grow industries requiring heavy science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) skills, New Mexico's higher education system is increasingly producing graduates in non-STEM fields.



The presence of a skilled workforce is critical to the development of a region's economy. While many skills are obtained through on-the-job experience, schools, colleges, and universities play a critical role connecting workers to industry. New Mexico has increased high school completion among the state's population from 82% in 2010 to 86% in 2020. This progress has led to increased rates of associate (9% of New Mexico's population in 2020), bachelor's (15%), and graduate (12%)

Underemployed *X* Job Matches or Exceeds Education Level

degree attainment in the state. However, data also indicate a mismatch in the skills of New Mexico's workers and the skills in demand by the state's employers (see *Labor Market & Workforce: Capabilities & Characteristics of New Mexico's Workers* and *Mapping Assets &* 



*Capabilities in New Mexico & Its Regions* in the full report for a detailed discussion of educational attainment and alignment in New Mexico).

Interviews with industry leaders in New Mexico largely corroborate the quantitative data trends. Many stakeholders noted that over time, New Mexico's public education systems at the secondary and post-secondary levels have become misaligned to the needs of employers in the state. This misalignment is important to note given the skill intensity of New Mexico's target industries, which generally require advanced skill levels in STEM-related areas for employment. If education and training institutions in the state do not produce the qualifications necessary to meet industry's needs, New Mexico risks exporting young residents to states with better connected institutions and losing valuable employers to states that provide better trained workers.

### Challenge 4: Disengagement of socioeconomically disadvantaged communities in planning processes

New Mexico is a minority majority state, which includes a significant Native American population. Traditional models of economic development in New Mexico have led to many of these communities being disengaged from the development planning process, institutionalizing inequities between communities and individuals with resources and those without. As a result, poor socioeconomic outcomes have become exacerbated in many of New Mexico's minority communities, requiring greater public resources to mitigate these outcomes.

	Unemployment Rate	Poverty Rate	<i>Population with an Associate Degree or Higher</i>	Median Personal Income
Native Americans	8.4%	30.0%	21.1%	\$26,000
Immigrants	3.6%	26.1%	28.9%	\$28,000
Rural New Mexicans	7.8%	26.1%	26.2%	\$23,000
New Mexico Average	5.5%	26.1%	36.8%	\$35,000

#### Table ES-1: Socioeconomic Indicators of New Mexico's Underserved Populations, 2019.

Diversity—educational, socioeconomic, ethnic, and geographic—greatly influences the dynamism of a region's economy. However, inequities based upon this diversity directly undermine the ability of a region to grow and prosper by disengaging different populations from the economy, hindering the economic wellbeing of historically disadvantaged communities. Such inequities have long been structural to economic systems in the United States, and New Mexico is no exception, but New Mexico faces unique challenges to equitable growth that many other states do not experience (see *Demographics: New Mexico's Changing* 



*Communities* and *Mapping Assets & Capabilities in New Mexico & Its Regions* in the full report for a detailed discussion of equity challenges in New Mexico).

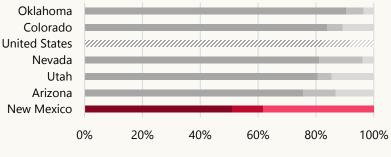
Poverty remains among the most formidable obstacles to equity in New Mexico, with poverty rates in the state increasing over the last decade despite declines in most peer states, including Arizona, Colorado, Oklahoma, and Utah. Additionally, poverty levels in New Mexico's communities remain elevated compared to levels in similar communities in other states. Despite these comparatively high poverty levels, tax filing data from the Internal Revenue Service indicate that income inequality has declined in New Mexico since 2010, though it remains elevated compared to the U.S. average. Identifying ways to better connect disadvantaged communities to resources and expand their role in the state's economy, whether through communities to build a more equitable economy in New Mexico.

## Challenge 5: Public-sector dominance in New Mexico's innovation ecosystem

As the home of two national laboratories and a branch of the Air Force Research Laboratory, New Mexico has a proven history of innovation. Combined, these labs routinely bring significant federal resources to the state, helping to attract highly skilled workers in knowledge- and technology-intensive industries to New Mexico. This has also led to the emergence of a small but highly educated science and engineering (S&E) workforce in the state; New Mexico ranks 15<sup>th</sup> in the United States for the number of S&E master's and doctoral degrees conferred in the state.

Nevertheless, many stakeholders noted that, given the significant resources at the labs' disposal, New Mexico's private sector is in constant competition with the labs to attract and retain highly skilled talent. This challenge is further compounded by the small number of resources perceived by stakeholders—such as skilled workers and financing that are available to entrepreneurs in New Mexico,





- Business Expenditure as Percentage of Business R&D
- Non-Federal Others Expenditure as Percentage of Business R&D
- Federal Expenditure as Percentage of Business R&D

especially those entrepreneurs looking to establish businesses in knowledge- and technologyintensive industries. Ultimately, this has led to the emergence of a New Mexican private sector



that is closely intertwined with the federal lab system, rather than a private sector heavily rooted in the creation, production, and distribution of new products and services. For example, whereas most knowledge- and technology-intensive businesses in the United States invest in their own innovative activities—like research and development (R&D)—with smaller levels of support from the federal government, about 40% of business R&D spending in New Mexico is funded by the federal government (see *Determining Capabilities in New Mexico's Innovation Ecosystem* in the full report for a detailed discussion of innovation and entrepreneurship in New Mexico).

Separating New Mexico's private sector from the federal government is necessary to support the emergence of dynamic businesses in New Mexico. Stakeholders noted that increasing the successes of New Mexico-based businesses and startups is contingent upon increasing the market readiness of the state's entrepreneurs. Challenges range from increasing the business and financial literacy of small business owners to helping high-technology enterprises connect with industry leaders to catalyze future investments and growth. Supporting new programs focused on building technical capabilities and funding accessibility are critical to the future of a strong private sector in New Mexico.

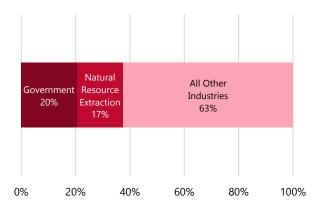
#### Challenge 6: Concentration of economy in a few key industries

Historically, New Mexico's economy has been dependent upon a few key industries that have driven development in the state. These industries include government, retail, and oil and gas. These industries will continue to play an important role in the state's economy, especially as they provide well-paying jobs to many individuals throughout New Mexico's regional economies. However, New Mexico's lack of industrial diversification has resulted in volatile economic cycles in which employment and the state's ability to fund public services are highly dependent on oil and gas prices as well as federal policy decisions. The threat that this dependence poses to New Mexico's economy was illustrated by the COVID-19 pandemic, when falling oil prices created an outsized negative impact for New Mexico compared to other states. In the long run, as the world transitions from fossil fuel to renewable energy, the need for New Mexico to develop new drivers of economic growth will become ever more urgent.

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### Figure ES-4: Percent of New Mexico GDP, by Industry, 2019.



Central to New Mexico's economic growth over the next 20 years is the development of nine industries with strong growth potential and high private sector wages. These industries, which are discussed in detail below, will complement New Mexico's existing assets and form the basis through which the state will attract new business and workers, upskill its existing workforce, protect its natural assets, and ultimately improve the quality of life of all New Mexicans.



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## The Way Forward New Mexico's Economic Path Forward

A strategy must have an identified goal that speaks to the unified vision of a region upon the completion of a strategy. The following vision was designed to reflect the goal of this strategy:

#### To build a diverse and robust economy that engages local talent, cultivates innovation, and delivers prosperity for all New Mexicans.

Stakeholders in New Mexico must take action to achieve this vision, which will require the collaboration of many stakeholders in New Mexico, including those in government, industry, academia, and non-profits. Addressing the six broad challenges identified in this report is beyond the scope of any one organization, and identifying successful solutions will require evidenced-based actions that are unique to New Mexico. The full report contains a series of specific actions to be taken by EDD and stakeholder organizations, but EDD must keep an open dialogue focused on identifying further actions to be carried out by EDD and the newly formed Sustainable Economy Task Force.

A roadmap was developed that focuses on six key strategies for economic development stakeholders in New Mexico. These strategies and their associated priority areas are identified below and are aligned with the six key challenges identified in the analysis. See the full report for a detailed discussion of these strategies and the specific actions recommended to those in New Mexico's economic development ecosystem.

#### **Strategies & Priorities to Achieve the Vision**



#### **Collaborative New Mexico**

Modernize New Mexico's Economic Development Ecosystem

**Priority 1.1.** Align the efforts of stakeholders in New Mexico's economic development ecosystem.

**Priority 1.2.** Streamline and simplify New Mexico's rules and regulations.

Priority 1.3. Strengthen New Mexico's business recruitment and retention efforts.





#### Dynamic New Mexico Strengthen New Mexico's Communities

**Priority 2.1.** Increase community capacity for economic development projects and initiatives.

Priority 2.2. Redefine New Mexico's urban regions.

**Priority 2.3.** Commit to the economic sustainability of New Mexico's rural and tribal communities.



#### Skilled New Mexico Reimagine Education & Training

**Priority 3.1.** Improve the quality of New Mexico's higher education and training programs through industry engagement and institutional reform.

**Priority 3.2.** Reform New Mexico's workforce development ecosystem to align with industry needs.

Priority 3.3. Prepare New Mexico's students for success.

#### Inclusive New Mexico

**Promote Equity through Economic Justice** 

**Priority 4.1.** Encourage state, regional, and local organizations to increase collaborations with tribal communities.

**Priority 4.2.** Expand access to resources for entrepreneurs from disadvantaged backgrounds.

**Priority 4.3.** Improve education and workforce outcomes for underserved populations.



#### Innovative New Mexico

**Enable High-Quality Home-Grown Innovation** 

Priority 5.1. Build capacity among New Mexico's entrepreneurs.

Priority 5.2. Remove barriers to financial resources for entrepreneurs.

Priority 5.3. Sustain an entrepreneur-friendly business environment.



**Priority 5.4.** Connect entrepreneurs and innovators to critical industry knowledge and resources.



#### Resilient New Mexico Diversify New Mexico's Economy

Priority 6.1. Aerospace.

Priority 6.2. Biosciences.

Priority 6.3. Cybersecurity.

Priority 6.4. Film & Television.

Priority 6.5. Outdoor Recreation.

Priority 6.6. Sustainable & Value-Added Agriculture.

Priority 6.7. Intelligent Manufacturing.

Priority 6.8. Global Trade.

Priority 6.9. Sustainable & Green Energy.





## **Diversification** Defining New Mexico's Target Industries

New Mexico's economy has long been defined by a core set of industries: government, retail, agriculture, and oil and gas. New Mexico's history with these industries—as well as its many assets, including federal national laboratories and significant endowments of renewable and nonrenewable natural resources—indicates that these industries will continue to play a pivotal role in the state's economy. Nevertheless, as the state seeks to expand its economy in the future, stabilize long-term public revenues, and create greater opportunity for current and future residents, New Mexico will need to foster growth in a greater number of industries.

EDD and SRI employed a mix-methods approach to analyze the target industries identified by EDD as those that New Mexico should pursue to increase economic diversification. This approach is built upon a review of New Mexico's current assets—whether they be institutional, infrastructural, or otherwise—and existing studies conducted by regional and local stakeholders that identify promising industrial opportunities in their regions. Similarly, data from the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) provide a quantitative justification for why certain industries are identified as opportunities for New Mexico. Industries are measured at several different levels of specificity, according to the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS). At the twodigit NAICS level, industries are assessed as the cumulation of their component three-, four-, five-, and six-digit NAICS industries, with industries at the six-digit level being the most specific.

There are nine target industries for the state to actively pursue, and additional reasoning is provided further below:



Aerospace



Biosciences



Cybersecurity



Film & Television



Outdoor Recreation



Sustainable & Value-Added Agriculture



Intelligent Manufacturing



Global Trade



Sustainable & Green Energy



### \_\_\_\_\_

#### Identifying Industries to Accelerate Diversification

To identify emerging trends in New Mexico's target industries, EDD and SRI analyzed industrial change at the six-digit NAICS code level. This enabled EDD and SRI to capture change occurring at the hyper-specialized level and determine actions to be taken to support these industries according to changes occurring within related six-digit industries. Overall, four main qualities were assessed to identify opportunities within New Mexico's target industries:

- Stability. New Mexico's historical dependence upon government, retail, and oil and gas has heightened volatility within the state's economy, and any new target industry should work to minimize future economic volatility.
- **Earnings**. New Mexico should aspire to attract stable, well-paying industries that provide the state's residents with rewarding, productive, and meaningful work.
- Job-Rich. While New Mexico should seek to grow emerging and next-generation industries, there should also be a focus on industries with an established presence in the state and significant potential for job creation.
- Concentration. Any new target industries should demonstrate a comparatively high employment concentration compared to other regions of the United States, indicating a local competitive advantage that can translate to additional growth in jobs and businesses.

Using NAICS codes, it is possible to define these industries and measure their growth within a region over time. Many six-digit NAICS industries were identified that best align with New Mexico's competitive assets, which are discussed in greater detail further below, and these six-digit NAICS industries were aggregated to the nine broader target industry clusters within which New Mexico has a competitive advantage. As the analysis in the full report shows, these industries have historically been a relatively small share of New Mexico's economy but represent significant opportunities for growth in various regions of the state. Additionally, all but two of these industries—cybersecurity and global trade—have greater employment concentration ratios than the U.S. average, indicating that New Mexico outperforms many other regions of the country in these industries.



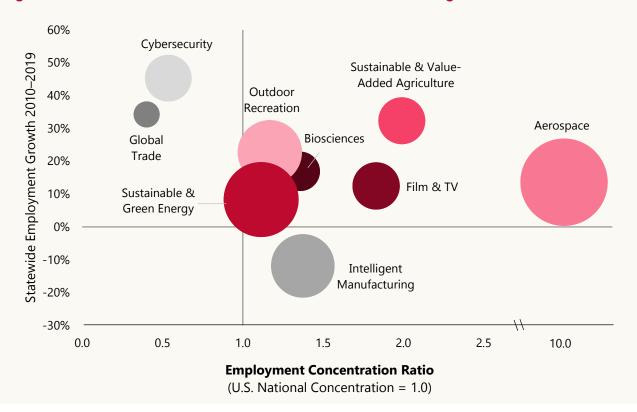


Figure ES-5: Growth, Concentration, and Size of New Mexico Target Industries, 2019.

From 2010 to 2020, the share of New Mexico's total employment represented by these nine target industries has remained relatively steady, representing between 10% and 12% of total employment in New Mexico. However, even accounting for the pandemic, employment growth has been high in cybersecurity (50%), global trade (38%), and sustainable and value-added agriculture (27%). Other high-performing target industries during this time include biosciences (20%) and aerospace (17%). While the remaining industries may not have been among the fastest growing, their pre-pandemic employment growth indicates that they remain competitive propositions for New Mexico. These trends show that these nine target industries represent areas of keen interest for New Mexico as it grows and diversifies its economy into the future.

#### Mapping New Mexico's Assets to Industrial Opportunity

New Mexico's historical economic strengths serve as a strong foundation upon which to build a more diverse economy that creates stable and sustainable growth. For example, the large role played by the government in New Mexico's economy—primarily through laboratories like Los Alamos National Lab (LANL), Sandia National Lab (SNL), and a division of the Air Force Research Lab (AFRL)—makes New Mexico an ideal location for industries that rely heavily on scientific research and technical knowledge. In particular, businesses related to **biosciences** and



**cybersecurity**, both of which are core research areas at LANL and SNL, show particular promise in New Mexico. Additionally, the location of AFRL's Space Vehicles Directorate in New Mexico, coupled with the construction of Spaceport America, provides New Mexico an edge over other states seeking to capitalize on the rapidly growing **aerospace** industry.

Natural amenities and resources—including the vast and pristine landscapes found throughout much of New Mexico, as well as the state's endowments in renewable and nonrenewable resources alike—make New Mexico an obvious candidate for employers in industries like **sustainable and green energy** and **outdoor recreation**. In addition to supporting the outdoor recreation industry, the diversity of natural landscapes in New Mexico, coupled with the quality of the film production workforce, has led to a thriving **film and television** industry. The agricultural traditions of many Native American communities in New Mexico have led to the emergence of a powerful **sustainable and value-added agriculture** industry, an industry that provides significant opportunities to those living in rural and tribal communities. Infrastructural investments made in various regions of New Mexico—including significant investments in the Borderplex region along the state's southern border with Mexico—have made the state a competitive player in certain industries, such as **intelligent manufacturing**, and **global trade**.



## A Call to Action Ensuring Strategy Success

This strategy is not the final step to revitalize New Mexico's economic development and diversification agenda—rather, it represents the crucial first step. It recognizes the need for greater collaboration throughout New Mexico's economic development ecosystem and calls on the stakeholders within this ecosystem to commit to a unified vision for New Mexico's future. Long-term growth is contingent upon routine collaborations between EDD and stakeholders that continuously scan the horizon for emerging opportunities and challenges and design approaches to strengthen and grow the state's economy.

This strategy is not intended to be so prescriptive that changes in state-level priorities render the plan irrelevant. Instead, it identifies many of the actions necessary for reinvigorating economic growth and diversification in New Mexico while recognizing the ongoing work done by regional, local, and tribal governments; economic development organizations; nonprofits; and many other stakeholders in New Mexico's economic development ecosystem.

Supporting this work and ensuring that it occurs through a collaborative and informed process is critical for New Mexico's economic future. Similarly, maintaining alignment between this strategy and future strategic planning efforts in New Mexico, such as those carried out by the Sustainable Economy Task Force, will help to ensure that the strategy remains relevant, is more precisely refined to target tribal and other historically disadvantaged communities and businesses, and is fully implemented over time.

Successful implementation of this strategy will require supportive actions from many stakeholders:

- New Mexico's business community needs to adapt to rapidly changing times and be prepared to pay higher wages, increase schedule flexibility, and provide greater options for working parents, caregivers, and adult learners to attract employees.
- New Mexico's business community and economic development activists need to join calls for increased EDD funding from the legislature and provide financial assistance to their local EDOs and COGs to put more boots on the ground, increase capacity to go after massive federal funding, and grow resources to support their local business communities.
- EDD, HED, and the higher education system need to collaborate to give incoming students the information necessary to choose careers in high-demand areas, and to tailor degree and certification programs to better reflect the needs of current and future industry in New Mexico—all to reduce the mismatch between employer-required skills



and skills obtained at New Mexico's colleges and universities, giving students the best possible chance for high-paying careers in New Mexico.

 Policymakers need to recognize that major changes to the economy to lift wages, strengthen New Mexico's private sector, and diversify for a more resilient economic base will require significant funding for EDD and economic development programs. New Mexico cannot continue on the path it has pursued in prior years—this plan provides a new path forward, and the state must now provide funding and take action.



# Acknowledgments

*Empower & Collaborate: New Mexico's Economic Path Forward* is the outcome of a collaborative process involving dozens of institutions throughout New Mexico. The project would not have been possible without their participation. We thank the following organizations for their contributions to this effort:

3D Glass Solutions	Eastern Plains Council of Governments		
AhShi Beauty	El Paso Electric		
Albuquerque Economic Development Inc.	Emergent Wave		
Arrowhead Center, New Mexico State	EndeavOR New Mexico		
University	Greater Gallup Economic Development Corporation		
Arrowhead Innovation Fund			
Artesia Chamber of Commerce & Economic Development	Greater Raton Economic Development Corporation		
Aztec Well Servicing	Greater Tucumcari Economic Development Corporation		
Bioscience Center			
Boeing	Guadalupe Community Development Corporation		
Carlsbad Department of Development	High Plains Processing Company, LLC		
Central New Mexico Community College	High Water Mark		
Circa	Ingram Professional Services, Inc.		
City of Albuquerque Economic Development Department	Intel Interwest Energy Alliance Jack's Plastic Welding		
City of Sunland Park			
Clovis Economic Development			
Cottonwood Venture Capital	Laguna Economic Advancement		
Deming Luna County Economic	Living Earth Art + Design		
Development	Los Alamos National Lab		

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Los Alamos National Laboratory, Richard P. Feynman Center for Innovation

Marty's Meals, Inc.

Mesalands Community College

Middle Rio Grande Economic Development Association

Mid-Region Council of Governments

Montech, Inc.

Mount Taylor Organic Farm

Native Women Lead

Navajo Tribal Utility Authority

NBCUniversal

Netflix

New Mexico Angels

New Mexico Biotechnology & Biomedical Association

New Mexico Chamber of Commerce

New Mexico Department of Workforce Solutions

New Mexico Early Childhood Education and Care Department

New Mexico Economic Development Department

New Mexico Economic Development Department, Outdoor Recreation Division

New Mexico Economic Development Department, Science & Technology Division

New Mexico Energy Manufacturing Consortium New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department

New Mexico Energy, Minerals, and Natural Resources Department, Energy Conservation and Management Division

New Mexico Film Office

New Mexico Higher Education Department

New Mexico Indian Affairs Department

New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology

New Mexico Manufacturing Extension Partnership

New Mexico Minority Business Development Agency Business Center

New Mexico Partnership

New Mexico Renewable Energy Transmission Authority

New Mexico State Investment Council

New Mexico Trade Alliance

New Mexico Workforce Connection

North Central New Mexico Economic Development District

Northwest New Mexico Council of Governments

Paradise Power Company, Inc.

Pattern Energy

**Pivotal New Mexico** 

Prent Manufacturing

Questa Economic Development Fund

RiskSense

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**Rocky Mountain Youth Corps** The Border Industrial Association Roosevelt County Community Development The Espanola Mercantile Company Corporation Trane Technologies Sandia National Lab Truchas Services Center, Inc. Sandoval County United States Space Force Santa Fe Office of Community & Economic University of New Mexico Rainforest Development Innovations Small Business Development Center Village of Los Lunas SolAero WESST Sony Pictures Television Western Ecology, LLC South Central Council of Governments Western Grid Group Southeastern New Mexico Economic Western New Mexico University **Development District** Western Resource Advocates Southwest New Mexico Council of Governments XBow Launch Systems **Spaceport America**