AGENDA
28th Annual New Mexico Data Users Conference

Wednesday, November 18, 2026
CNM Workforce Training Center
5600 Eagle Rock Ave. NE
Albuquerque, New Mexico 87113

Room 101:

7:45 – 8:15 **Registration and continental breakfast**

8:15 – 8:45 **Welcome and Opening Remarks** (*Suzan Reagan, UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research; Fran Fernandez, Center Director, SBDC at CNM; Jonathan Brown, Economic Development Department; Robert Citek, CNM Ingenuity*).

Plenary Session:

8:45 – 9:30 **Census Program Updates** (*Robert Rhatigan, Director, UNM Geospatial and Population Studies*) – The Census Bureau has released the 2030 Decennial Census operational plan. What does this mean for New Mexico?

9:30 – 10:15 **New Mexico Population Estimates: concepts, methods, and 2025 results** (*Kevin Drain, UNM Geospatial and Population Studies)* - UNM GPS produces annual population estimates for the state of New Mexico.

10:15 – 10:30 ***Break***

10:30 – 11:45 ***Breakout Sessions***:

Room 101 **Traffic Crash Data** (*Su Zhang, Associate Director of the Earth Data Analysis Center (EDAC)*) – The data is owned by NM DOT but GPS collects and organizes the data. This data is available in reports and online access. Learn about tools and data analysis of this interesting data.

Room 207 **Publicly Available Administrative Data for Program Analysis and Research** (*Jee Hwang, NM Healthcare Authority*) – Publicly available administrative data at the New Mexico Health Care Authority, such as enrollment and expenditures for SNAP, Medicaid, TANF, and other safety-net programs, and the HCA Data Book which compiles statistics related to HCA programs and various indicators at the national, state, and local levels.

Room 138 **AI a practical hands-on session** *(Jon Wheeler & David Gustavsen, UNM The College of University Libraries and Learning Sciences (CULLS))* – AI is changing our work environment and data analysis. This will be some hands-on prompt development to use with AI. Be ready to discuss your AI issues.

12:00 – 2:00 ***Lunch (Room 101)***

Lunch Presentation - **The New Mexico Economy: Recent History and Outlook** (*Michael O'Donnell, Director, UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research*) - A summary of recent events and performance of the New Mexico economy, along with an economic outlook for the coming two years. And new forecast tool from BBER!

2:00 – 3:15 ***Breakout Sessions****:*

Room 101 **Higher Education Data** (*Dina Adani and Brittany Gallegos, NM Higher Education Department*) – Learn about how NM colleges and universities are measured for outcomes! NM data now in US Census Bureau Post-Secondary Employment Outcomes Explorer.

Room 207 **Using Data to Create a Roadmap** (*Emily Widau, Voices for Children*) – impacting policy and creating a narrative based on data! Looking at statistics that tell the story of New Mexico Children.

Room 138 **Data Tools and Public Data Wrangling** (*Robert Citek, CNM Ingenuity)* – This session will cover a wide range of software that can be used to wrangle data. Additionally, look at ways in not only collecting publicly available data but in analyzing data to provide useful answers.

3:15 – 3:30 ***Break*** (refreshments in Room 101)

3:30 – 4:45 ***Breakout Sessions***:

Room 101 **NM Labor Market Information** (*Rachel Moskowitz, NM Department of Workforce Solutions*) – Learn about all the base data that tells the story about Labor Markets in New Mexico.

Room 207 **From Child Care Investment to Workforce Outcomes: Using Data to Tell the Story** *(Andrew Breidenbach, Kevin Estes, And Mary Nava; UNM Cradle to Career Policy Institute*) – This session will show how administrative and secondary data were used to examine policy enactment of no-cost childcare and how the policy changes have affected family uptake of childcare subsidies and workforce outcomes. In particular, the research explores emerging trends in childcare quality, workforce size, and wages. Additionally, qualitative interviews with childcare providers interviews assist in understanding the challenges of meeting an increasing demand.

Room 138 **Census Basics** (*Suzan Reagan, UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research*) – Learn about the difference Census Bureau programs and products. Hands-on using data.census.gov to access data and download it.

Alternate presentation (if needed):

Census Advanced Data Tools (*Suzan Reagan, UNM Bureau of Business and Economic Research*) – This session is for those who find using the Census website to locate information difficult but are familiar with much of it. This will be a deep dive into 3 most useful tools to download data. Bring your difficult data questions to be answered!

Adjourn

Save the Date for Next Year: November 17, 2027 (AND SUZAN's LAST!)

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