NO-COST SESSIONS AND LIVE DEMOS FOR STAFF, FACULTY, AND STUDENTS

TECH DAYS

2025

presented by

UNM OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

Featuring an NM Open Educational Resources Track

UNM UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES

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What is Tech Days?

Tech Days offers the University's students, faculty, and staff an exclusive opportunity to learn about technologies on campus. Attendees can participate in sessions, discussions, and hands-on demos of current and future technological innovations at the University.

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Keynote

AI Literacy: A Critical Skill for Higher Education

Dr. Leo S. Lo, President, Association of Research & College Libraries (ACRL)
Dean and Professor, College of University Libraries and Learning Sciences, University of New Mexico

As artifical intelligence continues to shape teaching, research, and administration, understanding how to effectively and ethically engage with this technology is essential for higher education professionals. This keynote will introduce the concept of AI literacy—what it means, why it matters, and how it applies to the challenges and opportunities faced by colleges and universities. Attendees will gain insights into practical applications, ethical considerations, and strategies to foster AI literacy within their institutions.

Dr. Leo Lo is the Dean and Professor of the College of University Libraries & Learning Sciences at the University of New Mexico. His work focuses on advancing AI literacy and developing training programs for library and higher education professionals. As President of the Association of College & Research Libraries (ACRL), Dr. Lo established a national task force to create comprehensive AI competencies. He studied artifical intelligence at the University of Oxford and holds a doctorate in Higher Education Management from the University of Pennsylvania, as well as an MS in Information Studies from Florida State University.

Presentations A - Z

Accelerating Student Success with Artificial Intelligence

John Callahan - Data and AI Specialist, Jennifer Bucich - Account Manager, Microsoft

Learn how artificial intelligence (AI) is revolutionizing higher education by accelerating student success and boosting retention rates. Discover innovative AI tools that personalize learning, provide instant feedback, and identify at-risk students early. Explore inspiring case studies and future trends, and see how AI can transform educational experiences and outcomes.

Audience: User

AI in Higher Education

Sudheer Manubolu - Solutions Architect, Amazon Web Services

Learn how AWS can help you responsibly implement AI solutions that align with your institution's mission while maintaining security, privacy, and academic integrity. Join us to explore how leading universities are leveraging AI to enhance student experiences, boost faculty productivity, and drive campus-wide innovation through personalized learning and intelligent automation.

Audience: Technical & User

Automate Azure Subscription Vending

Bryant Collman - Mgr Core IT Svcs, UNM IT Platform Engineering

Demonstrate Microsoft Azure Landing Zone best practices, leveraging DevOps CI/CD infrastructure pipelines, with Bicep and Azure Verified Modules.

Audience: Technical

AV Over IP

Ron Sutton - President, Advanced Presentation Systems

A comparison of traditional AV to AV over IP.

Audience: Technical & User

Bridging Affordability & Access: Equitable Access & RedShelf 2.0

Alicia Solano - AVP, Lisa Walden - Dir, UNM Bookstores, Institutional Support Services, Frank Gentile - VP of Business Operations and Customer Success, RedShelf

Join us for an inside look at the proposed (Fall '25) Equitable Access (EA) program providing undergraduate students at Albuquerque campuses with day-one course materials in Canvas at a predictable, affordable flat rate. RedShelf will demo their new Manager 2.0 platform, highlighting faculty adoption tools and the student bookshelf.

Audience: User

Building an Enterprise Data Warehouse for Higher-Ed

Rita Abeyta - Assoc Dir Core IT Svcs, Garth Colasurdo - Sr Core IT Svcs Specialist, Josh Saiz - Sr Core IT Svcs Specialist, IT Applications DART Team

Higher-Ed Data Warehouses consistently consist of data that is primarily comprised of student data. Non-student data is rarely included in a higher-ed institutional data warehouse. UNM has begun the development of a unified enterprise data warehouse (UEDW), which utilizes a modern cloud solution and will consist of student, employee, finance, and third-party systems.

Audience: Technical & User

Building the Future: AI Infrastructure, Security, and Governance

Chad Olsen - Solutions Architect, Data Center, Chris Hammer - Solutions Architect, Cybersecurity, ANM

As AI adoption accelerates, organizations must build robust infrastructure while ensuring security and governance. Explore AI infrastructure essentials, security risks like data breaches and model threats, and governance frameworks for compliance and ethical AI. Learn best practices for designing AI environments that drive innovation while maintaining trust and regulatory alignment.

Audience: Technical & User

Concept to Reality: A Demonstration of the New Student Hub

Lisa Beauchene-Lawson - Sr Product Lead, UNM IT Applications, Jennifer Lucero - Strategic Support Manager, Office of Advising Strategies

In partnership with the Office of the Provost, Office of Advising Strategies, and other key departments, we are implementing a dynamic CRM system that provides engagement, support and communication for UNM Students and support to administrative processes and services. We will demonstrate phase one features we developed that are essential for advisement communications, scheduling, and streamlining processes with the overall goal to improve the student experience.

Audience: Technical & User

Creating a US History Timeline using H5P

Sue Ruth - Instructor, Steve Martinez, Ph.D. - Assistant Professor, CNM Anthropology and History

As part of the New Mexico OER Consortium Grant Project, we created a timeline for US History II (HIST 1120) using H5P, an open-source tool that allows users to create and share interactive content. The timeline can easily be embedded in an LMS allowing students to get a visual sense of the trajectory of US history. Learn how to use H5P to create a variety of timelines and other activities that can be embedded into an LMS to improve student engagement.

Audience: Technical & User

OER, Restorative Justice, and the Classroom

Nahir I. Otaño Gracia - Assistant Professor of English; First author of OER Book Early World Literature: A Restorative Justice Approach, Averie Basch, Research Graduate Assistant; Second author of OER Book Early World Literature: A Restorative Justice Approach, UNM English Department

Understand our aims and difficulties in building an OER book to teach World Literature I through a Restorative Justice approach. Learn our process in putting together the book, our teaching frame work, and the pedagogy behind it. We will define world literature, restorative justice and how these themes come together in the classroom. We will also discuss strategies to use restorative justice beyond a literature classroom.

Audience: Technical & User

Custom Analytical Methods Tailored to Student Data Characteristics

Tushar Ojha - Data Scientist, UNM Institute of Design & Innovation

Off-the-shelf AI/ML methods are often used to analyze student success outcomes—few of which simultaneously accommodate key student data characteristics. These characteristics may violate assumptions of traditional ML algorithms, yielding suboptimal results. Custom methods specific to student data, focused on explanatory value (not predictions), facilitate better decision-making. We illustrate this with a method from IDI for explaining student outcomes.

Audience: Technical & User

Data Community Roundtable

Elizabeth Kerl - Institutional Researcher, Charla Orozco - Director, UNM Office of Assessment & Academic Program Review, Christina Powers - Data Manager, UNM Online

Come discuss what it's like working with data on campus and network with other data users from across the university.

Audience: Technical

Data Unbound: Transforming Raw Data into Analytical Power

Spencer Visconti - Institutional Researcher, Chris Perkins - Staff Solutions Architect, Cisco

Learn how to convert raw data into action for: fraud detection, deeper understanding of applications, security trends, and user behaviors, etc. Understand the key layers of data—Signals, Semantics, and Logic—and how they support five analytics approaches: Descriptive, Diagnostic, Predictive, Prescriptive, and Generative. See real-world examples and learn practical strategies you can immediately apply to your data initiatives for measurable outcomes.

Audience: Technical & User

Decoding the Banner Workflow IT Purchasing Process

Mark Orgeron - Data Privacy Specialist, Information Security & Privacy Office, Nate Molinar - Sr Contracts Specialist, Purchasing, UNM

Understand the reasoning behind the Banner Workflow process and how it helps protect the university.

Audience: User

Developing the OER for New Mexico History

Brandon Morgan, Ph.D. - Associate Dean, History, Latin American Studies, American Studies, Native American Studies, and Communication at CNM

Experience a demo of and conversation about the creation process for the New Mexico History OER at Central New Mexico Community College. This project began in 2013, and the book launched for a fee in 2015. Learn about the book's impact and its journey to becoming openly licensed.

Audience: Technical & User

Ellucian SaaS Platform Overview

Sarth Desai - Product Manager, Ellucian

Dive into an all-encompassing session where we present a thorough overview of our full platform suite, highlighting both its current functionalities and the exciting future deliverables on our roadmap. Gain valuable insights into the innovations driving our platform forward and the benefits they bring to our user community.

Audience: Technical & User

Enhancing Approval Processes using Oracle APEX Workflows

Robert Vanderburg - Programmer Analyst 2, UNM Enrollment Management Reporting

Approval processes can often become administrative bottlenecks, slowing down productivity and decision-making. Explore how leveraging Oracle APEX Workflows can streamline and enhance approval processes. By automating tasks, integrating processes, and improving visibility, APEX has allowed organizations across UNM to reduce manual intervention, minimize errors, and accelerate approvals.

Audience: Technical & User

Enhancing Productivity on UNM Campuses with Microsoft Copilot

Josie LaHaye - Programmer Analyst II, Jadyn Liu - Programmer Analyst II, UNM IT Applications

Explore the uses and benefits of Microsoft Copilot within the UNM infrastructure. Learn what Copilot is, how it works, and how it will be utilized by students, staff, and faculty.

Audience: Technical & User

Enterprise Services: Ready or Not, Here IT Comes!

Devon Williams - IT Project Manager 3, UNM IT

As organizations increasingly adopt enterprise services to streamline operations, improve efficiency, and enhance user experiences, driving successful implementation is essential. Learn about our structured approach for deploying an enterprise service; the critical considerations, common challenges, and actionable steps for departments that ensure a smooth transition.

Audience: User

ESC Pod and Lobo Lab Digital Makerspace

Sally Bowler-Hill - Associate Dir, Learning Environments, Agastya Vanapalli - Sr Project Manager, UNM Academic Technologies

The ESC Pod and Lobo Lab Digital Makerspace project aims to transform these spaces into technology-enhanced environments designed to foster collaboration and creativity. See a preview of plans for these labs and join a discussion about makerspace technology needs on campus.

Audience: User

Framework for Designing Balanced & Efficient Degree Plans

Ahmad Slim - Research Asst Professor: Institute of Design & Innovation, UNM Provost Office

Designing optimized degree plans is crucial for student success and institutional efficiency. Understand how educators and advisors can generate real-time, personalized degree plans to 1. maximize requirement satisfaction while minimizing complexity, then 2. balance credit loads and difficulty via a scalable approach.

Audience: Technical & User

From Chaos to Clarity: Implementing Tiered Support and Streamlining IT Workflows

Steve Spence - Manager, Devon Brown - Programmer Analyst 1, Sean Fisher - Programmer Analyst 3, UNM IT Applications, Support

Learn how we developed a tiered support structure to streamline workflows, improve resolution times, and reduce duplication of effort. Whether you are managing a messy queue, exploring tiered support, or just want to hear a few IT battle stories, join us—you might even be entertained!

Audience: Technical & User

Future of Work, AI and Creativity

Natasha Chan - Principal Solutions Consultant, Adobe

As AI continues to reshape education and the workforce, it's essential that both students and faculty are equipped to thrive as critical, ethical and agile users. Learn how Adobe is empowering academic communities with the tools, insights, and strategies needed to navigate this transformative landscape. Leave with actionable insights and a clearer vision of how to succeed in an AI-driven world.

Audience: Technical & User

Generative AI for Institutional Decision-Making

Ahmad Slim - Research Asst Professor: Institute of Design & Innovation, UNM Provost Office

Higher education generates vast amounts of data, yet insights remain challenging. Learn how AI automates SQL queries, analysis, and visualization via natural language, aiding decisions on retention, GPA, and curriculum while enhancing equity and resource use. The future will include predictive modeling.

Audience: Technical & User

Global Data Platform Powering IBM / CARC AI Supercomputers

Chris Maestas - CTO Data & AI Storage Solutions, IBM, Hussein Al Azzawi - Mgr IT Svcs, CARC

Learn the fastest way for organizations to build a global data platform around their file and object data leveraging the power of the IBM Storage Scale System 6000 and deliver scalable high-performance IO to the most demanding AI training and inferencing workloads. Understand how the partnership between UNM, CARC, and IBM is delivering high performance capabilities (storage, data analytics, file and object use cases) to affiliated UNM Research organizations and UNM Colleges.

Audience: Technical & User

Harness Your Amazing Brain: Technological Tools for Collaborative Creativity

Jo Kinnard - IT Officer, UNM

The human brain is an incredible resource. If we can put our minds together, imagine the creative possibilities! There are technological tools and techniques that will take your own thinking, planning, and problem-solving to a new level and also make collaborative work more fun. We will look at some of those tools and try out some of those techniques in this interactive session.

Audience: Technical & User

Issues of Vulnerability in Writing your OER Materials: Personal, Intellectual, Ethical ...

Mary Rice - Professor of Literacy, Joaquín T. Argüello de Jesús - Graduate Research Student Assistant, UNM Department of Language Literacy and Sociocultural Studies

Creating an OER requires multiple types of labor. This presentation adds a relational view of these labors, reframed as vulnerabilities, including (a) personal examples, (b) controversial positions, (c) becoming known in their field as a maker and user of OER, and (d) navigating obligations to others' intellectual properties. Presenters will share examples of noticed vulnerabilities while writing an OER and participants can share their stories, questions, and wonderings.

Audience: Technical & User

Spanish as a Heritage Language and the OER

Damián Vergara Wilson - Professor, Brisa del Bosque - PhD student and Instructor of Spanish, Elizabeth Zevala - PhD student and Instructor of Spanish, UNM Dept of Spanish and Portuguese

While OERs are valuable for educators in all fields, they hold a particular importance in the teaching of UNM's Spanish as a Heritage Language (SHL). Learn the importance of OER creation in the teaching of SHL and understand how a culturally responsive OER is being created in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese.

Audience: Technical & User

Leveraging Satellite Imagery to Monitor Health Impact of Wildfires

Lisa L. Sinclair - Remote Sensing Scientist, Tyler Eshelman - Programmer Analyst 2, Su Zhang, Ph.D., GISP, CMS-RS - Assoc Dir, Earth Data Analysis Center, Shuguang Leng, MBBS PhD - Assistant Professor, UNM School of Medicine, Earth Data Analysis Center

Air pollution, especially PM2.5 and black carbon (BC), poses serious environmental and health risks, worsened by wildfires. Ground-based monitoring has limited coverage, leaving gaps in air quality data. In response, we use satellite imagery to estimate PM2.5 and BC, improving accuracy and analysis. By integrating satellite data, meteorology, and emissions, we refine pollution modeling and connect it with health studies to assess long-term exposure impacts, especially on vulnerable populations.

Audience: Technical

LoboCloud Automation Portal

Damion Terrell - Sr Core IT Services Specialist, UNM IT - Platforms - VIS

The LoboCloud Automation Portal, a decade-long UNM service, was upgraded last year with many new features: integration with Ansible, automated Distributed Firewall, and "Infrastructure-as-Code." Understand the changes and available features, and participate in a technical roundtable discussion on desired future enhancements.

Audience: Technical

Maximizing Copilot with Increased Protection through Purview

Derek Brawders – Customer Success Account Manager, Seth Jewell – Principal Technical Specialist, Microsoft

Discover how to enhance productivity with Microsoft Copilot while ensuring robust data protection using Microsoft Purview. This session will highlight the integration of Copilot's AI capabilities with Purview's comprehensive data governance solutions, providing a secure and efficient environment.

Audience: Technical

Meeting of the NM Online Learning Alliance

Elisha Allen - Dir, Online Strategies & Academic Technologies, Randall Woodard - Sr LMS Administrator, New Mexico Online Learning Alliance

Join this community of practice meeting for the NM Online Learning Alliance which seeks to enhance online learning experiences and opportunities in New Mexico by sharing best practices, pursuing shared opportunities, and promoting innovation and collaboration among distance education support practitioners at New Mexico colleges and universities.

Audience: Technical & User

Overview of the New Mexico Open Educational Resources Consortium

Jennifer Jordan - OER Librarian and Assistant Professor, Kiernan Cantergiani - PhD student and instructor in LLSS, former OER Grant graduate assistant, Stephanie Spong, Ph.D. - Senior Operations Manager, Elisha Allen - Dir, UNM Online Strategies & Academic Technologies, Open Education Resources (OER)

Developed through a grant from the Department of Education's Open Textbooks Pilot Program and building on long-standing UNM collaborations, the New Mexico Open Educational Resources (NMOER) Consortium seeks to make open course materials more prevalent in NM Higher Ed schools. Learn how the NMOER Consortium is building relationships to develop and ensure the success of open education practices within higher education in the state of New Mexico.

Audience: Technical & User

Powering Proactive & Personalized Engagement: A Look at What's Possible

Christine Carlson - Account Executive, Lynnia Coulter - Account Executive, Salesforce

Unlock student data to help drive personalized experiences to support the students journey.

Audience: Technical & User

Presenting Data Outside of the Box

Elizabeth Kerl - Institutional Researcher, UNM Office of Assessment & Academic Program Review

Excel's default graphs are amazing when they fit what you are trying to show. And then there are the rest of the times. Join me as we explore ways to present data outside the expected. Let's hijack Excel. Let's draw in Adobe Illustrator. Let's bring it all together and make beautiful data presentations!

Audience: Technical & User

Remote Learning Equity

Ty Goulding - Education Account Manager, Nate Lundquist - Technical Director, Crestron Electronics

Remote learning has become integral to education, but ensuring equity for remote participants in lecture halls remains challenging as remote students often experience decreased engagement/participation. Explore the evolution of remote learning in lecture halls, from past challenges to new technologies.

Audience: Technical & User

Self-Service Analytics, Part 1: What's Already Available

Charla E. Orozco - Dir, Office of Institutional Analytics, Michael Hickman - Dir, IDI, Valerie Martinez - Dir, EMRT, UNM

Explore the self-service analytics resources that are readily available with little additional effort required. From pre-built dashboards like the Official Enrollment Report, to tools like degree audits and cohort analytics, learn how to navigate and leverage existing data sources to uncover valuable insights with data that's already at your fingertips ready to inform your decision-making.

Audience: User

Self-Service Analytics: Part 2: Building Custom Insights

Valerie Martinez - Director Reporting and Analytics, UNM Enrollment Management Reporting

Not all the data you need may be readily available in pre-built resources. When existing dashboards fall short, build your own solutions by identifying, accessing, and integrating additional data sources – such as those needed for grant-writing – into your self-service workflow. Learn the steps for obtaining and combining data that may not be publicly available, empowering you to create custom reports.

Audience: Technical & User

Smartsheet 101: Simplify Your Workflow

Deena Duran - Senior Business Analyst, Jillian Chavez - Program Specialist, UNM HSC Finance & Administration

Discover how Smartsheet can streamline your projects and daily tasks! Learn the basics—how to access Smartsheet, understand license levels, and create sheets and forms. Perfect for beginners, you'll leave ready to make the most of your license and manage your work more efficiently.

Audience: User

Smartsheet 301: Streamline Updates with Dynamic View

Jillian Chavez - Program Specialist, Deena Duran - Senior Business Analyst, UNM HSC Finance & Administration

Take your Smartsheet skills to the next level with Dynamic View! Learn how this premium app keeps users engaged by allowing them to update information easily—even across multiple entries. Keep all your data in one spot with a single source of truth, perfect for managing ongoing projects without the hassle of back-and-forth emails.

Audience: User

Streamlining IT Operations with Ansible Automation Platform

Dez Wong - Sr Core IT Svcs Splst, UNM IT Platform Engineering

Ansible Automation Platform is a powerful solution that streamlines IT operations by automating repetitive tasks, managing complex deployments, and orchestrating workflows across diverse systems. It empowers system administrators, DevOps engineers, and IT professionals to manage infrastructure as code with consistency, scalability, and reliability. Learn how UNM's Ansible Automation Platform efficiently manages systems and services, driving operational excellence.

Audience: User

The Weight of Open: Keeping OERs Vital While Managing Faculty Workload

Tammy Wolf - English Faculty and English Department Chair CNM, Megan Barnes CNM English Faculty - OER Collaborator, CNM

OERs enhance education but can strain faculty with the demands of updating, customizing, and maintaining quality. Explore strategies to sustain OER vitality while managing workload, including collaboration, streamlined workflows, and institutional support. Gain practical tools to balance teaching and OER efforts, ensuring resources remain relevant without overwhelming educators.

Audience: Technical & User

Transforming Service Delivery at UNM

Lynn Heide - Higher Education Relationship Manager, Clay Major - Senior Solutions Consultant, ServiceNow, Renee Weeks-Wynne - Account Executive, ServiceNow

In 2024, UNM embarked on a campus-wide initiative to transform how constituents request and receive IT services. ServiceNow was selected to provide a modern and intuitive user experience for all IT-related requests, deliver resource planning, and provide visibility and metrics to managers and leaders and the implementation is on-going. Learn how ServiceNow will deliver interactive chat and an improved experience across IT ticketing, project management, and security operations.

Audience: Technical & User

Using For-Loops in R for Data Processing BYOD

Jing Feng - Sr Institutional Researcher, UNM Office of Institutional Analytics

Follow along in some exercises we will demo so you can learn the basics of for-loops in R and how to use them to automate repetitive tasks in data processing. Participants are expected to have basic familiarity with R and have R/RStudio installed on their machines.

Audience: Technical

Workday Illuminate: AI Solutions Solving Real World Problems

Sonal Nuckols - Principal Enterprise Architect, Tim Mueller - Account Executive, Workday

Workday Illuminate distinguishes itself by combining a massive and clean dataset with contextual understanding, a value-centric approach, a comprehensive AI ecosystem, and a commitment to responsible AI. See what our higher education customers achieve when they "illuminate" everyday processes.

Audience: Technical & User

Web Content Accessibility Guidelines in Higher Ed

Ashley Campbell - Operations Specialist, Melissa Herrera - Instructional Media Specialist, UNM Online

Learn important steps that higher education institutions can take to comply effectively with recent updates to ADA regulations. Understand how institutions can implement policies, enhance online course design, and support faculty in creating accessible practices into coursework and virtual environments.

Audience: Technical & User