TECH DAYS

2026

presented by

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF INFORMATION OFFICER

nm oer

UNM ESPORTS
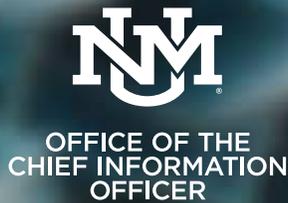
Featuring NM Open Educational Resources Track

UNM UNIVERSITY LIBRARIES **nm oer**

techdays.unm.edu

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.

Tech Days is made possible by

Premier Sponsors

Adobe · anm · DELL Technologies · NVIDIA

Sponsors

Advanced Presentation Systems · ardham · ARISTA · AVI SPL · aws

biamp. 50 · cloudforce · COMCAST BUSINESS · CRESTRON

Ellucian · EPSON EXCEED YOUR VISION · HPE aruba networki · IBM · HURON · legrand

LOIAL · LUMEN · Microsoft · ORACLE

peerless-AV · PIER Group Partners in Education & Research · Q-SYS · SHI GOVERNMENT SOLUTIONS

SONY · splunk> a CISCO company · WOLFVISION · workday.

Keynote

UNM Esports: A Brief History of Engaging a New Subculture

Bernardo J. Gallegos, Staff Advisor, UNM Esports Technical Analyst and IT Manager, University of New Mexico IT and UNM Bookstores

Esports have played a role in our society for more than 40 years, evolving like many other cultural phenomena. What began as a hobby has rapidly grown into a viable career path at a breakneck pace and society oftentimes misconstrues esports for being only the former. Today's keynote addresses the fundamentals of community building and the importance of creating spaces where students can step forward as leaders, challenge themselves to reach new heights, and navigate the demands of their academic pursuits and unique human experiences.

Bernardo is one of three Staff Advisors assisting the UNM Esports competitive club sport, guiding the organization toward both championship victories and fostering a sense of belonging among peers for both undergraduate and graduate students alike. With his guidance, the UNM Esports team has established itself as the premier organization for competition and esports broadcast production in the state of New Mexico. Organizations such as NMAA and APS Esports call upon students at UNM Esports to inspire the next generation of Lobos to join the University of New Mexico and expand the reaches of their understanding and knowledge as they pursue the prospects of their educational careers. Bernardo has designed several multi-day esports competitions across the state, reflecting his stewardship and commitment to engaging peer groups and capturing the imaginations of multiple generations.

Presentations A - Z

Advanced HPC & AI: Unified by Design

Brandon Halte - AI Specialist, Dell, Hussein Al-Azzawi - CARC IT Manager

High-performance computing and AI are power-hungry, and running multiple small clusters can be both expensive and inefficient. This talk covers how consolidating into a shared HPC and AI environment can drive significant savings in hardware, facilities, and energy, while enabling modern AI workloads and data-intensive research. We'll highlight best practices in capacity planning, energy-efficient design, workload consolidation, and governance structures that help universities meet both budget constraints and sustainability goals. Hussein from CARC, together with the Dell team, will walk you through how to get the most out of the UNM research environment and give you a preview of what's coming next.

Audience: Technical & User

AI @ UNM

Jessica Frick - AI Specialist, Baset Haridy - AI Specialist, UNM IT

Learn about the new AI platform coming to UNM that allows students, faculty, and staff to create their own AI agents and engage with a wide range of AI models like OpenAI GPT, Claude, and more!

Audience: Technical & User

AI, Reward Systems, and Accountability

Sumanth Guduguntla - Compliance Analytics Specialist, UNM

AI can amplify reward disparities and allow people to dodge accountability while scaling decisions. This session explores a practical framework for traceability, responsibility, and fair recognition systems, ensuring outcomes are auditable, transparent, and aligned with organizational values. It empowers both teams and leaders to use AI responsibly without sacrificing trust or fairness.

Audience: Technical & User

AURA: Real-Time Awareness & Learning Systems

Brandon Bussard - Student, UNM

Learn how real-time awareness technology is transforming safety, education, and workforce development. Discover how augmented reality, predictive analytics, and GIS data mapping help organizations align infrastructure and training with human behavior and environmental needs. Explore how AURA reduces learning barriers, improves decision-making, and supports smarter community and institutional design.

Audience: Technical & User

Automated Testing to Deployment: CI/CD Pipelines

Sandip Kumar Yadav - Technical Specialists, UNM IT Networks, Sneha Gupta - Teaching Assistant, UNM

Learn how to automate the entire software delivery process from code commit to production deployment. Watch live demonstrations building a complete CI/CD pipeline with automated testing, security scanning, and deployment. See how automation reduces deployment time from hours to minutes while catching bugs before production. Understand the tools and workflows that enable teams to deploy multiple times per day safely. Attendees will leave with pipeline templates, testing strategies, and best practices for implementing continuous deployment in their organizations.

Audience: Technical & User

Be a Part of Developing Trustworthy AI Policy

Melanie Moses - Professor, Computer Science, Sonia Gipson Rankin - Professor School of Law, Stephanie Moore - Associate Professor CULLS OILS, Kathy Powers - Associate Professor Africana Studies Department, Grace Faustino - Manager, IT Services. Office of the Vice President for Research, UNM

Can you imagine AI that met your needs and solved problems you care about without the negative consequences of current AI tools? Students, faculty and staff, please join us for a discussion where we imagine the AI we wish to have! This discussion will inform future UNM policies, tools, capabilities and strategies for Trustworthy AI at UNM.

Audience: Technical & User

Co-designing UNM's AI Policies and Decision Making

Stephanie Moore - Associate Professor, OILS, Kathy Powers - Professor, Political Science, Melanie Moses - Professor, Computer Science, Sonia Gipson Rankin - Professor, School of Law, Grace Faustino - Manager, IT Services. Office of the Vice President for Research, Todd Quinn - Associate Professor, CULLS, UNM

Learn how AI has been used in consequential decision-making and the practical, ethical and legal consequences. If you are an administrator, student or faculty member who makes decisions about employment, admissions, financial aid or grading, or if those decisions impact you, this discussion is for you. Provide your input to help shape how UNM policy on how AI can make decisions about you!

Audience: Technical & User

Boomi Technical Deep Dive: Banner, ODS, and More

Tuan Bui - Associate Director of IT Applications, Amanda Opeka - Programmer Analyst III, Jadyn Liu - Programmer Analyst II, Ron Estrada - Senior Core IT Services Specialist, Adam Abusang - Programmer Analyst, UNM

Discover how Boomi connects Banner, ODS, and third-party systems across core UNM's data domains. Explore real integration examples and the design patterns used to move and transform data between systems. Learn how Boomi orchestrates processes, manages integrations, and provides monitoring and reliability to support enterprise-wide system connectivity.

Audience: Technical

Bridging the Gap in the Age of AI

Joseph Ulibarri, Ph.D. - Black Education Act Curriculum Specialist, Erica Wheeler - Humanities Specialist, UNM

Explore how the use of open pedagogy and authentic assessments can better prepare college students for success in the age of AI. Authentic assessments offer meaningful opportunities for students to demonstrate their learning by incorporating reflections on their cultures, experiences, and strengths, moving beyond reliance on traditional testing.

Audience: Technical & User

Choosing How We Fail Less at Scale

Devon Williams - IT Project Manager III, UNM

Challenge the idea that there's a single "right" way to manage projects.
Explore Agile, Waterfall, and Hybrid approaches through real-world lenses—and learn how to choose the right model based on risk, uncertainty, and people. Walk away with practical decision tools to stop debating frameworks and start delivering outcomes that actually stick.

Audience: User

Complete your 2026 Mandatory Training

Bonnie Minkus Holmes - Mngr EOD, OC Black Elk - Tech Training and Dev. Consultant, Bryan O'Niell - Sr. Technical Training Dev Consultant, Cynthia Perez Chavez - Sr EOD Consultant, UNM

Do you dread completing your Mandatory Training? Come by the lobo lab and get it done! We will have computers available for your to compete the 2026 mandatory training.

Audience: Technical & User

Data Community Roundtable

Elizabeth Kerl - Institutional Researcher, UNM

Join our community of data providers, users, and explorers. Come discuss what it's like working with data, ask questions, and network with others from across the university.

Audience: Technical & User

Developing OER for AI-Assisted ECURE Framework

K Joseph Ho - Director of Chemical Education, UNM

Explore how the ECURE framework leverages AI to enhance research skills training using Open Educational Resources. Learn strategies for integrating AI tools in student learning. Demonstrate interactive features teaching hypothesis formation, data interpretation, and scientific reasoning while addressing academic integrity and accessibility. Practical approaches for creating sustainable, openly licensed lab manuals that reduce costs and prepare students for AI-integrated research.

Audience: User

Emerging AI Technologies in Higher Education

Mike Newcomb - Field CTO, John Duran - Systems Engineer, HPE Networking

Gain an understanding of the application of AI in a university network infrastructure. The university networking landscape continues to evolve from end to end. The core of the network is continually pressured for more speed and agility. Technologies that utilize AI & the cloud will enable the network to adapt to the changing environment. Emerging technologies & microservices in cloud-based Wi-Fi utilizing AI, machine learning, and BLE will have a significant, positive impact on the end user experience.

Audience: Technical & User

Empowering Everyone to Create

Natasha Chan - Principal Solutions Consultant, Adobe

As a long-standing partner to higher education, Adobe is focused on inspiring and growing students—the next generation of creators. As technology and AI reshape learning, this session explores how creativity and digital fluency can empower everyone, regardless of background, discipline, or design experience, to create and tell their story. Through research and real-world examples, we'll highlight how education and industry together can expand opportunity and unlock human potential.

Audience: Technical & User

Faculty-Driven OER Creation Experience

Beth Pouska - Faculty, CNM School of Business, Hospitality & Technology,
Kim Berlat - Senior Instructional Consultant, CNM Innovation and Instructional Support

Have you ever looked at a textbook and thought, "I could have written this better"? Or maybe you spend so much time supplementing your publisher textbook that students are essentially paying for something you are supplementing anyway. Hear how eight existing OERs turned into one comprehensive text with the NM OER initiative. Join us to explore the process, the challenges, and the benefits of creating OERs that truly meet your students' needs.

Audience: Technical & User

From Spreadsheet to Dashboard: A Practical Guide

Charla Orozco - Director, Institutional Analytics, UNM

Learn how to turn everyday Excel spreadsheets into clear, interactive dashboards. This practical session shows how to structure data for visualization and build a simple dashboard using Tableau Public. Explore key data preparation tips, visualization best practices, and ways dashboards can help communicate insights and support better decisions across campus.

Audience: Technical & User

NMOER Track

Futurism, the University, and You

Elisha Allen - Director, Online Strategies & Academic Tech, Sally Bowler-Hill - Assoc. Dir. Academic Tech, UNM

The future is approaching faster than ever. Join this interactive session focused on the forces that are rapidly reshaping our world, imagined futures that we would like to build or avoid, our role and responsibilities as individuals and a university, and the stories and plans we will make to keep the future human.

Audience: Technical & User

Getting Started with LabArchives at UNM

Danielle Maurici-Pollock - Assistant Professor, Research Data Specialist, HSLIC, Gloria Yarandi - Enterprise Success Manager, LabArchives, Margo Gustina - Assistant Professor, Research & Data Services Librarian, CULLS, UNM

Learn how LabArchives, a modern, cloud-based Electronic Lab Notebook (ELN), can help you capture, organize, and share your research work. We'll cover how to create a UNM LabArchives account, setting up your notebook, key features, and best practices for managing and sharing research data, as well as resources to learn more.

Audience: Technical & User

Hands-On CMDB Administration Training for CI Agent

Nader Khalil - Assoc Dir,Core IT Svcs, IT Applications, Sudheer Kumar Randhi - Technical Analyst 3, IT Applications, UNM

This interactive, hands-on training session is designed for CMDB Administrators, Configuration Item (CI) Owners, and Class Owners who are responsible for managing and maintaining accurate configuration data within the ServiceNow CMDB. Participants will gain practical experience working directly with Configuration Items (CIs) and learning the best practices for maintaining data quality, governance, and lifecycle management within the ServiceNow.

Audience: Technical

IT in a Non-Standard Environment

Phillip Jacobus - Core IT Services Specialist, UNM

How do you support IT in powerplant and a steam locomotive built in 1944? This presentation will discuss the considerations and planning needed to support a non-standard IT network that mainly contains OT devices, requires some reporting, and has a few staff members that need support.

Audience: Technical & User

Meeting of the NM Online Learning Alliance

Elisha Allen - Director of Online Strategies and IT Academic Technologies, UNM

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

Moving to a Modern Data World in the Desert

Rita Abeyta - Assoc. Director Core Services, Garth Colasurdo - Core IT Services Specialist, Sr., Josh Saiz - Core IT Services Specialist, Sr., UNM

For 20 years, UNM has been utilizing an Operational Data Store (ODS) to provide data to different departments at the institution. As time has progressed so has the data tools. You will learn about how UNM is moving from antiquated ERP-based system to a more modern Data Warehouse to include data from the entire University.

Audience: Technical & User

Open Education Mentoring Methods

Aamna Nayar - Director, Department of Dental Health, Santa Fe Community College, Alex Sousa - Instructor, Spanish and Portuguese, Department of Modern Languages, Central New Mexico Community College, Jennifer Jordan - OER Librarian and Assistant Professor, University of New Mexico

Discover mentoring approaches supporting OER work at three New Mexico institutions: Central New Mexico Community College (CNM), Santa Fe Community College (SFCC), and the University of New Mexico (UNM). Speakers will describe how they guide faculty in adopting, adapting, and creating OER. Methods reflect institutional context, faculty needs, and resources, offering a comparative view of OER support across community colleges and a research university.

Audience: Technical & User

Private AI at the Edge: Secure Intelligence for Campus and Research

Scott Sailer - Technology Strategist, Lumen

Universities face pressure to adopt AI while keeping sensitive data on campus. Many use cases—student advising, research, clinical and athletic data—require privacy, compliance, and low latency. This session introduces the Private AI Factory from Lumen and Zadara, delivering secure, edge-based AI infrastructure with local compute, storage, and networking, enabling scalable, compliant AI without moving data off site.

Audience: Technical & User

Punch-cards to Pixels: Computer Art at UNMAM

Joseph McKee - Collections Assistant, UNM

Computer-based art bridges technology and creativity. It's a genre of art that existed long before Chat-GPT, but where and when did it begin? Using artworks from the University of New Mexico Art Museum, we'll explore the origins of computer art, inspect contemporary digital works, and debug how museums accession computer-based and digital art. Boot up your curiosity and learn about the origins, techniques, and applications of computer-based art. Its origins may be closer to UNM than you might think.

Audience: Technical & User

Really? That's what my SIS & ERP can do?

Chris Radke - Account Executive, Ellucian

Do you want to see what a true SIS ERP can do at UNM? Leveraging capabilities already owned by the University, this showcase will overview some of these most exciting features Banner has to offer across HCM, Finance, and Student. We'll be offering coffee, pastries, updates on the UNM/Ellucian partnership, and much more! See you then!

Audience: Technical & User

Rethinking Electrical Theory For Electricians

Eric M Barros - Full time electrical instructor at CNM

Learn about how CNM electrical trades is re-envisioning the approach and delivery of electrical theory for inspiring electricians through the implementation of an OER in place of a traditional textbook. This not only reduces costs for students but also streamlines the delivery of customizable curriculum to better suit the needs of students.

Audience: Technical & User

Salesforce at UNM: Sneak Peek at What's Ahead

Lisa Beauchene-Lawson - Sr. Product Lead, UNM

Salesforce has exploded in use at UNM. Starting with Student Success efforts and now expanding into Marketing and Recruitment, the roadmap for Salesforce is expanding. Come and see the latest development, the upcoming release enhancements, and the future plans.

Audience: Technical & User

ServiceNow Hands-On Q&A

Andrea Rodgers - Director, Customer Support Services, UNM

Become more effective and efficient in ServiceNow! In this hands-on LoboLab session, UNM IT staff will have the opportunity to ask questions about using ServiceNow incident, request, and knowledge to deliver IT service to customers. The goal of this Q&A session is to support UNM IT employees in developing knowledge and skills that will support them in their everyday jobs.

Audience: Technical

Smartsheet Smarter: From Setup to Strategy

Jillian Chavez - Program Specialist, Deena Duran - Senior Business Analyst, HSC

Whether you're building your first sheet or refining an existing process, this session explores how to design workflows that improve clarity and accountability. We'll highlight practical uses of Forms, Update Requests, Approval Workflows, and Dynamic View to reduce manual effort and increase transparency across teams.

Audience: User

Sneak Peek: Imagining the Research Exchange

Amy Jackson - Associate Dean for University Libraries, Amy Jankowski - Director of Learning, Research & Engagement, UNM

Join University Libraries for a first look at the proposed Research Exchange, an emerging concept for a research-focused library space. This session will introduce the vision for the space and invite attendees to help shape the project through interactive conversation, feedback, and suggestions.

Audience: Technical & User

Teaching AI to Think Like an Executive Assistant

Sandip Kumar Yadav - Technical Specialists, Program Specialists, Sneha Gupta - Teaching Assistant/ RA, UNM

Watch an AI learn executive decision-making patterns in real-time. See how contextual intelligence transforms raw email and calendar data into strategic insights—categorizing by urgency, understanding sender relationships, detecting deadline patterns, and predicting scheduling conflicts. Explore the multi-agent architecture where specialized AI components collaborate like a professional team: one analyzes communication tone, another identifies priorities, while a third optimizes time allocation. Witness the system make 50+ micro-decisions per email using behavioral algorithms. Leave with the complete architecture, decision trees, and deployment framework to build intelligent assistants.

Audience: Technical & User

The AI Initiative: Smarter Data, Smarter Infrastructure, and Smarter Business

Chris Maestas, CTO Data and AI Storage Solutions, IBM

As enterprises accelerate AI adoption, many discover that GPUs alone do not deliver results—the real bottleneck is data. This session introduces the AI Factory, an end-to-end architecture aligned with The AI Initiative: Smarter Data, Smarter Infrastructure, Smarter Business. We explore how fragmented data, unpredictable performance, and rising costs limit AI at scale, and why storage has become a strategic enabler. Attendees will learn how IBM Storage Scale provides a unified, high-performance data platform that delivers AI-ready data, maximizes GPU utilization, and enables organizations to move from pilots to continuous, production-grade intelligence.

Audience: Technical & User

The OER Evolution of US HIST 1110 & 1120

Dr. Steve Martinez - Assistant Professor of History at SFCC

A demonstration of how, over the past year and a half, the development of both U.S. History I and II courses into open educational resource–based classes has also expanded student accessibility.

Audience: Technical & User

NMOER Track

U of New Mexico's Integration-First AI Strategy

Drew Graham - Senior Account Executive, SLED, Steve Fishman - Field CTO / Go to Market Leader AI API Management, Steve Walker - SLED Solution Consultant, Jon Cottle Enterprise Account Executive - SLED, Boomi, Tuan Bui - Associate Director of IT Applications, Alesia Torres - Director of IT Applications, UNM

Explore how University of New Mexico's integration-first, platform-agnostic strategy enables the campus to evolve without being constrained by any single ERP, CRM, or core system. This session examines why Boomi serves as our long-term enterprise integration backbone, how peer institutions have successfully leveraged it during major ERP transformations, and how Boomi's integration, API management, and emerging AI capabilities work together to deliver scalable, flexible, and future-ready connectivity across the enterprise.

Audience: Technical & User

UNM Voice Migration NEC to Cisco

Adiel Sanchez - Associate Director Core IT Services, Douglas Ray - Manager, Core IT Services, Miranda Harrison-Marmaras - Core IT Services Specialist, UNM

A behind-the-scenes look at UNM's transition from our legacy NEC phone system to a modern Cisco voice platform—improving reliability, security, and the future of communication across campus and hospital environments.

Audience: Technical & User

UNM's AI Platform, NebulaONE: Sneak preview and BYOD to Build an AI Agent!

Sean Gayle - Director, A.I. Application Engineering, Microsoft

Step into a hands-on lab experience to be among the first at UNM to explore our newly acquired AI platform, NebulaONE. Get a sneak preview of the platform's capabilities and roll up your sleeves to build an AI agent using the provided tools. Led by Sean Gayle, Director of AI Application Engineering at Microsoft, learn directly from an industry expert while gaining practical experience you can take back to your work.

Audience: Technical & User

UNM's New DIY Video Studio

Sally Bowler-Hill - Associate Director, Academic Technologies, IT Learning Environments, Stephen Williams - IT Support Tech 2, Manuel Machuca - IT Support Tech 2, UNM

UNM has a new Do-It-Yourself video production studio in Woodward Hall! Learn more about this free, easy-to-use resource for students, faculty, and staff. The presentation will highlight the equipment, training, scheduling, and previous projects created in this professional video production space. It will also cover how we are using the studio as a model for providing access to other resources.

Audience: Technical & User

Use Diagrams to Ignite, Engage, and Move Projects!

Jo Kinnard - IT Officer, UNM

Is your team tackling a mega project, or a project yoked to other complex projects? A picture, tailored to the audience, can make a vital difference. With examples from major UNM projects, understand how diagramming tools such as Visio can help with visual project management approaches to enable your team and the organization-wide team to move in sync, and cross the finish line.

Audience: Technical & User

Using a Large Language Model to Improve a Website

Dez Wong - Senior Core IT Service Specialist, UNM

Discover how a large language model (LLM) transformed a real website — from smarter content to streamlined user experiences. Learn what worked, what didn't, and how you can apply AI-driven strategies to your own site. Whether you're a developer, designer, or content creator, walk away with practical insights and actionable techniques for leveraging LLMs to make your website faster, smarter, and more effective.

Audience: Technical & User