



## Interim Legislative Updates

### **Economic Development Innovation Task Force**

As part of NM IDEA's 2019 Legislative Priorities, the organization drafted and championed the successful passage of House Memorial 16 to spur collaborative and innovative discussions to create new economic development ideas to enhance New Mexico's economy.

HM 16, sponsored by Representative Andrea Romero (D-Santa Fe), requested that the Secretary of Economic Development create an Economic Development Innovation Task Force to discuss several topics including: identifying permanent and predictable funding for economic development programs and incentives, creating stronger collaboration between economic development organizations and New Mexico higher education alumni bases, identifying efforts to support the development of quality commercial and industrial spaces.

Earlier this month, Secretary of the Economic Development Department, Alicia Keyes, appointed the following five NM IDEA members to the task force: **Eileen Chavez Yarborough** (Cibola Communities Economic Development Foundation), **Eric Montgomery** (Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance), **Annemarie Henton** (Albuquerque Economic Development), **Warren Unsicker** (City of Farmington Economic Development), and **Chase Gentry** (Clovis Industrial Development Corporation). Other NM IDEA members participating on the task force are **Tim Nitti** (New Mexico Partnership) and **Davin Lopez** (Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance).

The first meeting of the Economic Development Innovation Task Force is today in Bernalillo. We will provide more information as the task force sets its work plan and moves forward. You can read the full memorial [here](#).

## **EDD in the News**

According to the *Albuquerque Journal*, at last week's Legislative Finance Committee meeting, the Economic Development Secretary, Alicia Keyes, stated that "the state is taking a new tack when it comes to how tax incentives are targeted, saying they will no longer be used to lure call centers and other types of lower-paying jobs." Instead the focus will be on higher-paying jobs and the state could target the aerospace, outdoor recreation and renewable energy sectors.

You can read the full article [here](#).

## **Upcoming Interim Committees**

### **Economic & Rural Development Committee**

The Economic & Rural Development interim committee explores economic and rural development activities and issues within the state.

**The Economic & Rural Development committee's second meeting is July 1-2 at the New Mexico State University's Pan American Center.**

NM IDEA member, Davin Lopez of the Mesilla Valley Economic Development Alliance, will present to the committee on general economic development challenges and opportunities in Mesilla Valley, as well as specific opportunities for New Mexico in the video game production industry.

The committee meeting's agenda items also include Spaceport America, economic development benefits and challenges of New Mexico's agricultural industry, updates on the development of the Hemp Industry, workforce development, and workers' compensation issues.

The full agenda can be found [here](#).

### **Legislative Finance Committee**

The Legislative Finance Committee (LFC) mission is to "provide the Legislature with objective fiscal and public policy analyses, recommendations and oversight of state agencies to improve performance and ensure accountability through effective allocation of resources for the benefit of all New Mexicans."

**The LFC's next meeting will be July 10-12 in Cloudcroft.**

The agenda includes an outlook on Permian basin production, as well a discussion on strategic investments and planning for growth in Southeast New Mexico. The full agenda can be found [here](#).