

## Supercomputing Challenge Board Meeting

2/28/25

5:30 pm via [Zoom](#), phone 669-900-6833, meeting id 87120003326, passcode 879089

### Attending:

**Board members:** Char Arias, Ron Davis, Creighton Edington, Lupe Montoya, Lee Rand, Tom Robey, Tim Thomas, Kaley Woelfel, Tom Bowles

**Staff:** Patty Meyer, Karen Glennon, Rashan Issac

**Executive Director:** David Kratzer

### Agenda:

o Establish Quorum (there was a quorum)

--> <https://tlthomas.people.unm.edu/pub/tims-crazy-list-syntax.html>

--> (latest innovation: "." -> "+")

+ When possible: quick Minutes reviews with first quorum

[Minutes](#) from the May 28, 2024 board meeting. Motion by Tim, Seconded by Char.

Votes - all Aye

#### \* Report from Santa Fe

--> FIRST ITEM, to accommodate Tom B.

[PED budget](#) is \$27.5 million, but \$200K is too small to be listed.

--> The few from Santa Fe, and visions from northern NM..

Thoughts from Tom B.

- He hasn't heard anything, but they have let him know they're preparing to vote
- Until the house votes on it, and it goes to the senate, and then the governor, nothing is certain
- There's a high probability we'll end up with the \$200k at the end of March
- First week in April the governor will have it to review
- We have many people in support of this and pushing for it
- We have huge backing from Mimi
- Need to say something by the time of the Expo (we should know by then)

Tim motioned that we thank Tom Bowles and all the work he's put into this effort

Seconded and unanimously agreed

David, Patty, and Karen are all ready to "pass the torch"

+ Review of Feb Evals

16 teams have presented their work to judges, with five more teams presenting over [Zoom](#) tomorrow morning. Seventeen people have been the volunteer judges.

+ Short term Plans / Expo plans

The 35th annual Expo will be held on April 25th at the Santa Fe Community College beginning with presentations from 8:00 until 11:30, lunch, afternoon talks and demos, early dinner 4-5, Awards Ceremony 5:00-6:00 pm.

+ Introduce Rashan Issac- Community Partnership Office employee to work with the Challenge. Education background, Data Science, Esports

\* **THE BIG DISCUSSION** -- Longer-term Plans...

+ Brief review of Current Financials

Current bank accounts have about \$17,000 in them to be used for the Expo and Awards Ceremony and scholarships. Money held in the Enterprise Bank & Trust account that NMC manages will pay April 1st contracts but will then be exhausted. There are plans to reach out to previous sponsors to get some contributions for the year-end event.

**Virtual vs. In-person options.** Hybrid options. Debated both options. What is the value to students and teachers? Virtual reduces costs. Intersection between budget and student schedules. Common meeting place in the community might be a benefit for teams. Visits to College Campus is beneficial for belonging to the college scene, possible attending college in first time college families. Regional Zones of events in New Mexico which would help outreach and costs. Use of Zoom for advanced groups of students. Younger students need to be in person. Too many variables with software, etc. Change kickoff to accommodate this. Virtual/Computer Platforms (Hopin) may be the issue to accommodate all. 25% Returning students yearly.

STI: Teacher stipend is motivating.

Teachers are in competition for resources with sports and other school events.

Are we splitting our limited resources unintentionally? Focusing on teachers AND students? Are both valuable?

Networking during in-person events is critical.

We could do an STI after July 1st (if we get the money). We will have limited staff to support.

Hybrid model for both kickoff and expo? If funding becomes tight and we already have a hybrid model in place, we have the capability to go virtual since the technology is already setup. Would depend on new Executive Director

In summary: We have a plan, we're stable, and we have a way to finish this year out.

When we find out about the \$200k, if we get it, we need to scramble to put an STI together, get a job req out for a new executive director, etc.

Rashan's thoughts initially -

- What's the support for school districts? Has the support been there? And if not, why not? He wants to start at that level and work his way up
- Going across the state and talking to school districts and teachers

We have thoughts to start bottom up with Rashan

- He can be on the ground level, meeting with teachers and principals and visiting schools
- How can we support teacher and school systems and how to partner with them

Could we survive without the 200k if we fundraise lower sums of money? Do we need a new executive director?

Rashan can touch anything except fundraising, so maybe we need a financial or donations director to partner with Rashan?

Realistically, how much of our staff's time is spent on things Rashan can/should take over vs how much is spent on things we could get volunteers to help with (or interns)?

Should we look at a pipeline for students from high school all the way to graduate school? Right now, we are lacking in representation from NMSU and NMT.

We really need to be telling people about the futures of students who have gone through our program... national science fairs, ivy league college acceptance, etc.

Let's brag about our students and what their successes are. We don't do that often enough. We could say to schools and students that completing the Challenge will get you somewhere.

+ Scenarios:

+ (2) NO new money at all from Santa Fe.

+ (1) New (backbone) money from Santa Fe:

--> Consider both a one-time shot and recurrence...

--> (Note: any new \$s won't come until July 1)

+ Plan A: "Full throttle, old model" (incl. STI and virtual (and some IT \$s))

+ Plans B: Cheaper models...

+ Financial agents: the roles of NMT and NMC

+ University partners (esp. UNM and NMSU)...

\* **Refreshing or Replacing ourselves:** board members, leadership, staff...

+ Introduction (and a little history): Rashan ("COS1" et seq)

+ Assuming it makes sense to have an Ex. Dir... creating a Job Description

--> Depends on the vision / plans (above)

+ **How to raise money** "on the backbone" or "as the backbone":

+ Legislative (PED or no)

+ Apple, Facebook, etc. (big players)

+ Grants

? Other

o **Adjourn**

Tim moves that we adjourn

Char second

Unanimously approved