



## ***News Release***

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### **Teams showcase school year-long computing projects at 27<sup>th</sup> annual Supercomputing Challenge Expo & Awards Events**

LOS ALAMOS, N.M., April 18, 2017 – More than 200 New Mexico students and teachers will gather at the Jewish Community Center <http://www.jccabq.org/> in Albuquerque April 24-25 to showcase their computing research projects at the 27<sup>th</sup> annual New Mexico Supercomputing Challenge Expo and Awards ceremonies.

“It is encouraging to see the excitement generated by the participants and the great support provided by all the volunteers involved in the Supercomputing Challenge,” said David Kratzer of the Los Alamos National Laboratory’s High Performance Computing Division, and Executive Director of the Supercomputing Challenge.

For the first time in our 27 year history the Expo and Award events are being held in Albuquerque in recognition of the growing role of Sandia National Laboratories, the New Mexico Tech Council and local businesses in the Supercomputing Challenge activities. About 30 Sandia National Laboratories employees will join 15 Los Alamos National Laboratory employees and about another 45 individuals from our state’s universities and private

businesses to work on the year end activities. Demonstrations of technology will be provided by Sandia, the University of New Mexico, Honeywell, and Boeing – SVS Inc. during the Expo event at the Jewish Community Center on April 24th. Afternoon tours for Supercomputing Challenge participants will be conducted at Ideum, Inc. <http://ideum.com/>, and Holman's USA Measurement Technology Center <http://www.holmans.com/>.

In conjunction with the Expo and Award Events, the Supercomputing Challenge will be conducting a networking event at the National Nuclear Science Museum on April 24 from 5-9 PM sponsored by Lockheed Martin. Please contact Bill Blackler at 505-898-3395 or E-mail [wblackler@gmail.com](mailto:wblackler@gmail.com) for more information.

### **About the Supercomputing Challenge**

The New Mexico Supercomputing Challenge teaches computational thinking, computer modeling and 21<sup>st</sup> century skills such as research, teamwork, project management, written and oral communication to middle and high school students throughout the state. Any New Mexico middle-school or high-school student, including home schooled students are eligible to participate in the Supercomputing Challenge. Students conduct research projects on subjects of their own choosing. This year 58 teams representing 24 schools from around the state participated in the Supercomputing Challenge. A full list of this year's final reports is presented at [http://www.supercomputingchallenge.org/16-17/final\\_reports\\_submitted](http://www.supercomputingchallenge.org/16-17/final_reports_submitted)

Kratzer said the Challenge provides a pipeline of potential future employees for our national laboratories and local high tech businesses.

The program was conceived in 1990 by former Los Alamos National Laboratory Director Sig Hecker and Tom Thornhill, president of New Mexico Technet, Inc., a non-profit company that set up a computer network in 1985 to link the state's national laboratories, universities, state government and some private companies. Senator Pete Dominici and John Rollwagen, then chairman and chief executive officer of Cray Research Inc., added their support. In 2001, the Adventures in Supercomputing program formerly housed at Sandia National Laboratories and later at the Albuquerque High Performance Computing Center at the University of New Mexico merged with the former New Mexico High School Supercomputing Challenge to become the New Mexico High School Adventures in Supercomputing Challenge. The organization became a 501 c3 non-profit corporation in 2005 and shortened the name to Supercomputing Challenge in 2012.