



AGENDA

MARCH 3, 2026

8:30 a.m. – 9:30 a.m. Spring into Summer Welcome and Reimagining Our Humanity Through Art, Science, and Technology Keynote *Speaker: Agnes Chavez, Founder/Director of STEMarts Lab*

9:30 a.m. – 9:40 a.m. Break and Visit Exhibitors

9:40 a.m. – 10:40 a.m. Four Concurrent Breakout Sessions

The Human Thread – Cultivating Empathy Through Shared Experience

This interactive workshop invites youth-serving professionals to reconnect with the universal experiences of adolescence and discover meaningful parallels between their own youth and the young people they serve today. Through a guided “Common Ground” activity, participants will reflect on formative experiences, build empathy, and explore practical strategies for fostering authentic, trust-based relationships with youth.

Speaker: Madonna Hernandez, Girls Inc. of Santa Fe

Entrepreneurial STEAM Challenges: Elevate Student Voice Through Innovation

Experience entrepreneurship in action through ESTEAM Challenges that center creativity, collaboration, and problem-solving. Participants will work through a design-thinking process—empathy, ideation, prototyping, and pitching—while tackling a real-world challenge. Attendees will leave with ready-to-use ESTEAM activities and strategies to cultivate entrepreneurial mindsets in K–12 OST settings.

Speaker: Scott Mann, VentureLab



Getting to the Money: Grant Writing Made Easy – Part 1

Designed for OST providers at any stage, this practical session demystifies the grant-writing process and builds confidence in pursuing funding opportunities. Participants will learn the essentials of crafting strong grant narratives and budgets, explore upcoming funding opportunities, and gain best practices to strengthen long-term grant readiness. Attendees will leave with tools and strategies to make grant writing more approachable and effective.

Speaker: Sheneika Simmons, Simmons Leadership Services

Blown Away: Renewable Energy with Wind Turbines

Explore the science behind wind power through hands-on, interactive activities that bring renewable energy to life. Participants will investigate how electromagnetic generators work, learn about wind turbine development in New Mexico, and engineer their own turbine blades using low-cost, easy-to-source materials. This workshop blends STEM learning with real-world application, offering ready-to-use activities that can be immediately implemented in OST programs.

Speaker: Lauren Butcher, Explora

10:40 a.m. – 10:50 a.m. Break and Visit Exhibitors

10:50 a.m. – 11:50 a.m. Four Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Explore New Mexico's STEM Innovation Network

This interactive session introduces participants to the NM STEM Innovation Network and its regional hub model. Attendees will learn how hubs coordinate partnerships, share resources, and support statewide STEM priorities, including computer science, career pathways, and rural access. Facilitated networking will help participants identify collaborators and resources aligned with their community needs.

Speakers: Patricia Carden and Wanda Bulger Tamez, New Mexico State University STEM Outreach Center

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Speaker: Scott Mann, VentureLab

Making it Happen: Successful Partnerships between CBOs and LEAs

This session offers a behind-the-scenes look at a successful 21st Century Community Learning Centers partnership between Farmington Municipal Schools and the Boys & Girls Club of San Juan County. Participants will explore program design, daily operations, evaluation, and sustainability, gaining practical insights into building and maintaining strong, high-impact OST partnerships.

Speakers: Rae Yazzie and Sharon Bassing, Farmington Municipal Schools

All Children Flourishing: Introduction to the Nurtured Heart Approach

Learn how to be a powerful agent of change in your afterschool and summer program with a few minutes of positive interventions every day. The Nurtured Heart Approach is a philosophy and set of dynamic strategies with no blame, no guilt and no negativity. The principles are focused on maximizing every child's potential and greatness. The approach is simple to implement and can have an immediate and lifelong effect on children's relationships with parents, teachers, and peers. In this session you will learn how to help children feel great about who they are and how to create thriving environments allowing children to flourish no matter the current behavior, condition or circumstance.

Speaker: May Sagbakken, NMOST



11:50 a.m. – 12:50 p.m. Lunch

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Four Concurrent Breakout Sessions

Youth Entrepreneurship in OST: Panel Discussion and Lessons Learned

Discover how Youth Entrepreneurship (YE) is transforming out-of-school time programs across New Mexico and learn how to launch your own initiative. Our panel of local leaders will share practical strategies for helping youth of all ages turn creative ideas into prototypes and businesses. Join us to explore how these programs foster an entrepreneurial mindset through resilience, problem-solving, and hands-on innovation.

Facilitator: Scott Mann, VentureLab

Getting to the Money: Grant Writing Made Easy – Part 2

Designed for OST providers at any stage, this practical session demystifies the grant-writing process and builds confidence in pursuing funding opportunities. Participants will learn the essentials of crafting strong grant narratives and budgets, explore upcoming funding opportunities, and gain best practices to strengthen long-term grant readiness. Attendees will leave with tools and strategies to make grant writing more approachable and effective.

Speaker: Sheneika Simmons, Simmons Leadership Services

STEM with an "A": Hands-on Art Workshop for OST Programs

This engaging, hands-on workshop explores creative ways to use the arts to build confidence, personal skills, and career readiness. Participants will experience open-ended activities that give students the freedom to imagine, experiment, and develop original solutions. Working in teams, participants will solve an art-based optical illusion challenge, explore aromatic therapeutic play, and experience the fun and wonder of magic as a creative learning tool. Activities strengthen fine motor skills, critical thinking, self-expression, and storytelling using materials such as chalk markers. The workshop highlights how proficiency in the arts supports social-emotional learning and prepares youth for a wide range of career pathways.

Speaker: Flo Trujillo, Retired from Farmington Public Library



The Human Thread – Cultivating Empathy Through Shared Experiences

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Speaker: Madonna Hernandez, Girls Inc. of Santa Fe

2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.

Break and Visit Exhibitors

2:15 p.m. – 3:15 p.m.

Four Concurrent Breakout Sessions

NM Teen Centers: Emerging Trends, Innovations and Challenges

This panel discussion will bring together leaders from four New Mexico teen centers to explore the realities of serving teens in out-of-school time settings. Through open dialogue and shared reflection, panelists will discuss key topics such as mentorship, teen mental health, food access, creating safe and inclusive spaces, youth-driven program design, and staffing considerations. The session will examine what is working well—and what continues to be challenging—in teen programming, how programs have evolved since the pandemic, and the funding and operational realities unique to teen centers. Participants will gain practical insights, real-world examples, and a deeper understanding of current trends and challenges shaping teen services across New Mexico.

Speakers: Robert Stokow, Warehouse 505

Sarah Martinez, Boys and Girls Club of Santa Fe

Sheldon Hamilton, Explora

Facilitator: Sandy Campbell, True Kids 1

Creators to Changemakers: Using AI to Build Youth-Led Entrepreneurship in OST Programs

This interactive session introduces participants to the NM STEM Innovation Network and its regional hub model. Attendees will learn how hubs coordinate partnerships, share resources, and support statewide STEM priorities, including computer science, career pathways, and rural access. Facilitated networking will help



participants identify collaborators and resources aligned with their community needs.

Speaker: Saul Nuñez, Gadsden Independent School District,

Small Moments, Big Impact: The Secret to Powerful Relationships

Everyday interactions hold the power to shape young people's confidence, growth, and sense of belonging. This session explores how intentional mentoring and relationship-building can transform routine moments into meaningful opportunities for learning and connection. Participants will gain practical strategies to help youth feel seen, supported, and empowered—because when relationships are strong, programs thrive.

Speakers: Dr. Angela Redondo and Dr. Dawn Berry, New Mexico Highlands University

Summer Learning at Public Libraries Across New Mexico

Summer Reading Programs are a cornerstone of community learning, offering far more than books and prizes. This session highlights the statewide impact of summer learning at public libraries, featuring data, best practices, and a local case study. Participants will explore partnership opportunities and discover how libraries support literacy, engagement, and access to enriching OST programming across New Mexico.

Speaker: Kelly McCabe, New Mexico State Library

3:15 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Break and Visit Exhibitors

3:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

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Speakers: Dr. Angela Redondo and Dr. Dawn Berry, New Mexico Highlands University



Accelerating Learning in Out-of-School Time Programs

This workshop explores how thoughtfully designed afterschool and camp programs can accelerate student learning while maintaining a joyful, youth-centered environment. Drawing from real-world OST leadership in a Title I community, participants will examine practical strategies for structuring learning time, grouping students, embedding tutoring, and using simple data to guide instruction. Attendees will leave with adaptable tools to strengthen engagement, consistency, and academic outcomes.

Speaker: Elizabeth Rojas, Certified Educator and Program Leader

Get in the Game: Telling Your Unique Story to Stand Out and Win

In this energetic, gamified workshop, participants will explore fundraising through storytelling, collaboration, and friendly competition. Working in small groups, attendees will brainstorm ideas, match projects to funder profiles, and participate in a Shark Tank–style pitch. Whether new to fundraising or looking to sharpen skills, participants will gain practical insights and hands-on experience to strengthen their funding strategies.

Speaker: Laurel Meister Schmuck, The Grant Plant Inc.

The "T" in STEM: Technology-Based Curricula for OST Programs

Dive into hands-on technology experiences that showcase how innovation comes to life in OST settings. Participants will rotate through interactive stations featuring circuits, digital media, and virtual reality career exploration. This workshop offers a practical overview of technology-based curricula that spark curiosity, build skills, and connect students to real-world STEM and career pathways.

Speakers: Kelsey Moore and Rina Viramontes, New Mexico State University STEM Outreach Center

4:30 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

General Session and Wrap Up

