

New Mexico Economics Research Day

Friday, August 14, 2026

Building #57, ECON 1002

1:00 – 3:30 PM

- 1:00 – 1:15 **Opening remarks**
Introductions: Dr. Matias Fontenla, Chair, UNM Department of Economics
Welcome: UNM Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs
Barbara Rodriguez
- 1:15 – 1:35 **Streetlights and Tradeoffs: Better Understanding Water Use and Values in the Middle Rio Grande Valley**
Principal Investigators: Dr. Robert Berrens, Economics & John Fleck, Utton Center UNM SOL
Graduate student assistants: Stephania Alarcon Alcala, Samuel Asare
Faculty reviewer: Dr. Benjamin Jones
- 1:30 – 1:55 **Cannabis Legalization and Commercial Driver Availability**
Principal Investigators: Drs. Xiaoxue Li and Sarah Stith, Economics
Graduate student assistant: Jinyang Liu
Undergraduate student assistants: Izuru Hayama, Rodney Kennedy
Faculty reviewer: Dr. Yuting Yang
- 1:55 – 2:30 **Coffee and Posters***
- 2:30 – 2:50 **Agricultural Water Users' Preferences for Water Conservation in the Middle Rio Grande Basin**
Principal Investigator: Dr. Jingjing Wang, Economics
Graduate student assistants: Jane Sawerengera, Sujaan Aryal
Undergraduate student assistants: Anna Cao, Jason Sanchez Hernandez
Faculty reviewer: Dr. Sarah Stith
- 2:50 – 3:10 **Pathway to Zero Natural Gas: Understanding the Transition from Natural Gas to Electric Appliances in Los Alamos Households**
Principal Investigator: Dr. Yuting Yang, Economics
Graduate student assistants: Jiaqing Zhao, Ahmed Amine Jawhari, Ben Cornelius
Undergraduate student assistant: Chloe Sullivan
Faculty reviewer: Robert Berrens

3:10 – 3:30 **Reception and Posters**

*Posters also available for viewing 12:30–1:00 and 3:10–3:30 PM