



Sandia Science & Technology Park spurs economic growth

New report shows 310 jobs added, increased spending in 2 years

By **Manette Newbold Fisher**

A new, independent report has concluded that Albuquerque's **Sandia Science & Technology Park** contributed significantly to the local economy in 2018-19 by adding 310 jobs and generating increases in economic activity and tax revenue to both the city and the state.

The report by the **Mid-Region Council of Governments** presents the park's economic impact through the end of 2019. In the most recent two-year period, taxable personal consumption totaled about \$461.8 million in Bernalillo, Sandoval, Torrance, Valencia and southern Santa Fe counties.



PARK IMPACT — Companies located in the Sandia Science & Technology Park collectively employ more than 2,300 people, according to a new report by the Mid-Region Council of Governments. Most park jobs are in scientific and technical service fields. **Photo courtesy of Sandia National Laboratories**

According to the report, taxable personal consumption refers to spending by individuals on goods and services that are taxable in New Mexico.

In addition, gross receipts tax revenue contributed \$19.8 million to the state of New Mexico and \$8.8 million to the **city of Albuquerque** in 2018 and 2019.

The Sandia Science & Technology Park is a 340-acre, master-planned technology community and a public-private partnership. Associated with Sandia

National Laboratories and adjacent to Kirtland Air Force Base, its companies have access to world-class facilities, technologies, scientists and engineers.

Labs Director James S. Peery emphasized that Sandia partners on projects with companies in the park, and that the close proximity gives researchers in both sectors the opportunity to work together and share equipment and results.

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Weapon Intern Program graduates 25th class

2020 graduating class gets national security enterprise education during a pandemic



POLICY WORK — The 2020 Weapon Intern Program class visited Washington, D.C., prior to the pandemic.

Photo courtesy of Sandia National Laboratories

By **Stephanie Holinka**

This month, Sandia's Weapon Intern Program will graduate its 25th class in 22 years. The program was created in 1998 to accelerate the learning process and transfer decades of knowledge and experience in all phases of the nuclear weapon lifecycle, from experienced weaponeers to the new generation of stockpile stewards.

Program administrator Katheryn Pape said this year's class has been unlike any other.

"With all the unknowns, it has been unpredictable, disappointing and frustrating. It's also been rewarding when we were able to find new and inventive ways to help educate the next generation of weaponeers," Katheryn said.

This year's class was challenged by the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting need for staff to isolate or work from home. The program administrators had to get creative with how to deliver meaningful education and how to redefine the class's capstone project. The solution was to have students collaborate on nuclear

policy research. The class co-authored, in groups of about seven, several major policy papers.

"This pandemic is a teachable moment for how the enterprise needs to be flexible and prepared," said Will Frankland, Sandia engineer and class of 2020 graduate. "We can now imagine a future where we're expected to deter war while our entire population is incapacitated and isolated. We've discussed how it can be done. These challenges felt very real to the class and were experienced in real time."

— CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

 LABNEWS Notes

COVID-19 came through the door

One slip brought illness and fear to my home and family

By **Scott Aeilts**,
Associate Labs Director

Not so long ago, I was literally on top of the world. The Colorado Rockies were towering, the fish were biting, and I was looking forward to several days in the high country. But I woke up the first day of my annual fly-fishing trip with what I thought was a summer cold — a sore throat and congestion.

The next day, I felt like I'd been hit by a bus. After 20 minutes on the river, I couldn't go on. Walking back to the campsite, COVID-19 crossed my mind.

It didn't make sense. My family and I were following the rules in and outside our home. We wore masks and practiced hygiene and social distancing. With my two college sons and high school daughter at home, friends did stop by, but we were careful.

It took one slip to change the equation. A family friend visited from out of state over the July 4th weekend. He looked healthy and there was no reason to believe he was sick. But he was. He brought COVID-19 into our house.

Driving back from Colorado, I feared the worst and, sure enough, tested positive for the coronavirus. My sons also tested positive, while my wife and daughter were negative. We all isolated in different parts of the house for two weeks. It was tough. I ran a fever for 10 days and had a cough, chills, shortness of breath and intense fatigue, like nothing I'd ever experienced.



TRIP CUT SHORT — Associate Labs Director Scott Aeilts' annual fly-fishing trip got off to a good start, but illness was lurking. By the second day, his symptoms were getting worse and he had to cut his trip short to go home and seek treatment. Testing soon showed that he had COVID-19.
Photo courtesy of Scott Aeilts

Without a doubt, it was scary. Given the number of COVID deaths, there were moments when I wondered if we would be the ones to get the serious respiratory complications. But talks with my doctor over the phone calmed my fears as the disease progressed. I started feeling better when the fever broke but still had ups and downs and even now, must rest at times. My sons also have recovered, but I worry about my wife and daughter. We're not completely out of the woods.

Thoughtful approach

My advice is to follow the rules on hygiene, masks and distancing and think carefully about who you let into your home. The virus spreads easily in confined spaces over extended periods of time. A house is such a space. Our family's hygiene didn't matter once COVID came through the door. The close proximity did us in. Be confident that visitors are COVID-free and consider wearing a mask indoors.

Also, listen to your body. If you get the virus and are symptomatic, you'll know. Stay home if you don't feel well and get tested if your symptoms worsen. If you get COVID, my advice is to eat

healthy, take Vitamin C and zinc, drink lots of water, rest and talk to your doctor about treatment.

Throughout this experience, I couldn't have been prouder of Sandia's thoughtful approach to the pandemic. The safety of our workforce comes first, and the COVID-19 protocols we've put in place have proved to be effective, adaptable and sustainable.

At home, my family will not let down its guard. We will be cautious and responsible. I'm getting stronger every day and am grateful I went into this in good health. I can't help but think of COVID-19's impact on vulnerable people. If I were older or had an underlying health problem, it would have been a much harder fight.

I hope next year to go back to the mountains, wade into a river and enjoy the beauty around me. I'll go with the knowledge that life holds surprises, both good and bad. COVID-19 was a surprise and a scare. I'm grateful to have regained my health and will carry the lessons with me forever. 

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 LABNEWS Notes

EDITOR'S NOTE: Lab News welcomes guest columnists who wish to tell their own "Sandia story" or offer their observations on life at the Labs or on science and technology in the news. If you have a column (500-800 words) or an idea to submit, contact Lab News editor Tim Deshler at tadeshl@sandia.gov.

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Rose Gottemoeller: The importance of science diplomacy

By *Whitney Lacy*



COOPERATIVE MONITORING — Rose Gottemoeller spoke to Sandians on July 28 as part of the Labs’ National Security Speaker Series.
Photo courtesy of Rose Gottemoeller

Rose Gottemoeller spoke to Sandians in a video conference on July 28 in honor of the 25th anniversary of the Labs’ Cooperative Monitoring Center. The talk was part of Sandia’s National Security Speakers Series. As the Frank E. and Arthur W. Payne Distinguished Lecturer at Stanford University’s Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies and its Center for International Security and Cooperation, Gottemoeller knows firsthand the value of international scientific cooperation in the national security field.

In her talk, “From the Russell-Einstein Manifesto to Beyond New START,” Gottemoeller discussed the history of national security from the 1950s to the current day, including the role of the CMC in the urgent work of fissile material control in Russia in the 1990s. She spent much of her talk highlighting the role of different expertise in the New Strategic Arms Reduction Treaty, or New START, negotiations.

“Science diplomacy is the key to success gained in an interdisciplinary approach to nuclear deterrence,” she said. “And Sandia, with the CMC, is at the forefront of the United States’ abilities to limit and control nuclear weapon proliferation.”

Gottemoeller extolled the virtues of science diplomacy, which she described as an inter-

disciplinary approach — from scientists to politicians, diplomats to the departments of Defense and Energy, to Sandia and other labs — that all play an important role in this movement.

“The threat reduction programs in the 1990s, to New START with the Russian Federation, would not be possible without science diplomacy,” Gottemoeller said. She also explained that arms agreements and negotiations need a sustained effort for a long period of time.

“Russia has already extended the life of their nuclear weapons, and so we must ensure to continue our weapons modernization programs. But we also need to get China to the table, and to extend New START for another five years to ensure implementation.”

Science diplomacy

While diplomacy is the tool to advance the national interests of the U.S., Gottemoeller stressed that the national labs need to be present to help with the technical aspects. “This is science diplomacy at work,” she said. “You need a multi-disciplinary approach to have effective U.S. policy.”

She ended the talk by looking to the future and to the continuing role that interdisciplinary cooperation plays in tackling problems such as control

and monitoring of warheads. “We must continue to reduce and eliminate nuclear weapons and fissile material, or we will, at some time and place we cannot predict, succumb to nuclear terror.”

Before joining Stanford, Gottemoeller was the deputy secretary general of NATO from 2016 to 2019, where she helped to drive forward NATO’s adaptation to new security challenges in Europe and in the fight against terrorism.

Prior to NATO, she served for nearly five years as the under secretary for arms control and international security at the U.S. Department of State, advising the secretary of state on arms control, nonproliferation and political-military affairs. While assistant secretary of state for arms control, verification and compliance in 2009 and 2010, she was the chief U.S. negotiator for New START.

A recording of Gottemoeller’s talk can be viewed at cmc.sandia.gov. Employees can also visit the [National Security Speaker Series](#) website on the Labs’ intranet to view past presentations.

MISSION FORWARD

SANDIA'S DEFENSE IN-DEPTH APPROACH

Working together to keep our workforce safe and healthy as we further our mission

PREVENTING THE SPREAD

- Using contactless badge readers and computer login stations to prevent spread
- Practicing social distancing to reduce exposure
- Face coverings are mandatory on-site
- Retooling and reimagining workspaces and schedules
- Implementing a phased approach for returning to normal operations and maximizing telework

EXPANDED SCREENING + HEALTH SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM

- Health Check desktop and mobile app system to help reduce the risk in the workplace
- First national lab testing site to provide screening for workforce and NNSA employees
- Reviewing antibody testing research for clinical decision making
- Contact tracing and quick quarantine response to identify impacted workforce and facilities

LABSWIDE EDUCATION + TRAINING

- COVID-19 Safe and Secure Work Practices training as workforce returns to site
- Expanded training and learning resources for teleworking employees
- Site-wide safety and health awareness signage deployed
- Website and e-mail notices inform workforce of health and safety precautions, emergency alerts, and changes to work processes

KEEPING FACILITIES CLEAN

- Cleaning and disinfecting high-touch areas up to six times a day
- Making sanitizer dispensers available at many turnstile gate entrances
- Filling and distributing bottles of hand sanitizer on-site
- Increasing fresh air circulation and reducing recirculated air across most buildings
- Deploying decontamination process in buildings when confirmed cases of COVID-19 reported

MULTIPLE LAYERS OF DEFENSE MISSION FORWARD

CLICK HERE TO VIEW A LARGER IMAGE.

COVID-19 defense: Sandia's in-depth approach

Sandia is taking an in-depth, layered approach to combating the spread of COVID-19. As the nation navigates through the COVID-19 global health crisis and as more people come on-site, we want our workforce to know [what we do to prepare and what to expect](#).

Sandia is continuing to maximize telework while using a graded approach for the return to normal operations over the coming months. This effort is coordinated across sites as we address issues and concerns that impact everyone.



ON TARGET — A Weapon Intern Program class reviews the drop of a mock weapon at Sandia's Tonopah Test Range in Nevada in 2012. The WIP curriculum includes lectures, briefings and site visits that reinforce classroom work and allow the interns to understand the breadth of the overall nuclear enterprise. **Photo courtesy of Sandia National Laboratories**

Weapon Intern Program

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Just as it did this year, the WIP curriculum is intended to evolve to better address the challenges of maintaining the nation's nuclear deterrent for the future. It seeks to strike a balance between a healthy appreciation and respect for the past while focusing on the present and future.

Nuclear deterrence work accelerated

In the current accelerated path toward nuclear stockpile modernization, Sandia's nuclear weapons workload has dramatically increased, and Sandia is working concurrently on more weapons programs now than at any time since the end of the Cold War. To help Sandia deliver on its important nuclear deterrence work, the program trains new nuclear security complex workers from throughout the enterprise, to prepare them for the challenges of maintaining the nation's nuclear arsenal and expertise.

Since its beginning, 514 participants have graduated from the program, including 301 Sandians and 213 professionals from other organizations, including the U.S. Air Force and its Nuclear Weapons Center, U.S. Navy, Kansas City National Security Campus, Pantex, Y-12, Savannah River Site, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Defense Threat Reduction Agency and students from intelligence community organizations such as the FBI and CIA.



DETAILED ORIENTATION — Sandian Erick McIntire explains features of the MK-5 bomb to members of a Weapon Intern Program class in 2019. **Photo by Randy Montoya**

WIP prepares its participants so they can contribute in a way that better serves themselves, their home organizations and the nuclear weapons community.

The 2021 class begins in September. Candidates for the 2022 class can learn about [becoming an intern](#) on the WIP website. Applicants must have a Q-clearance and one to five years of nuclear weapons experience in a nuclear deterrence organization or have directly supported the nuclear deterrence mission.

Sandia's weapon engineer professional development department also offers a manager's course, Essential Topics for Nuclear Weapon Management (affectionately called WIP-lite), to provide a broader overview of the nuclear security enterprise.

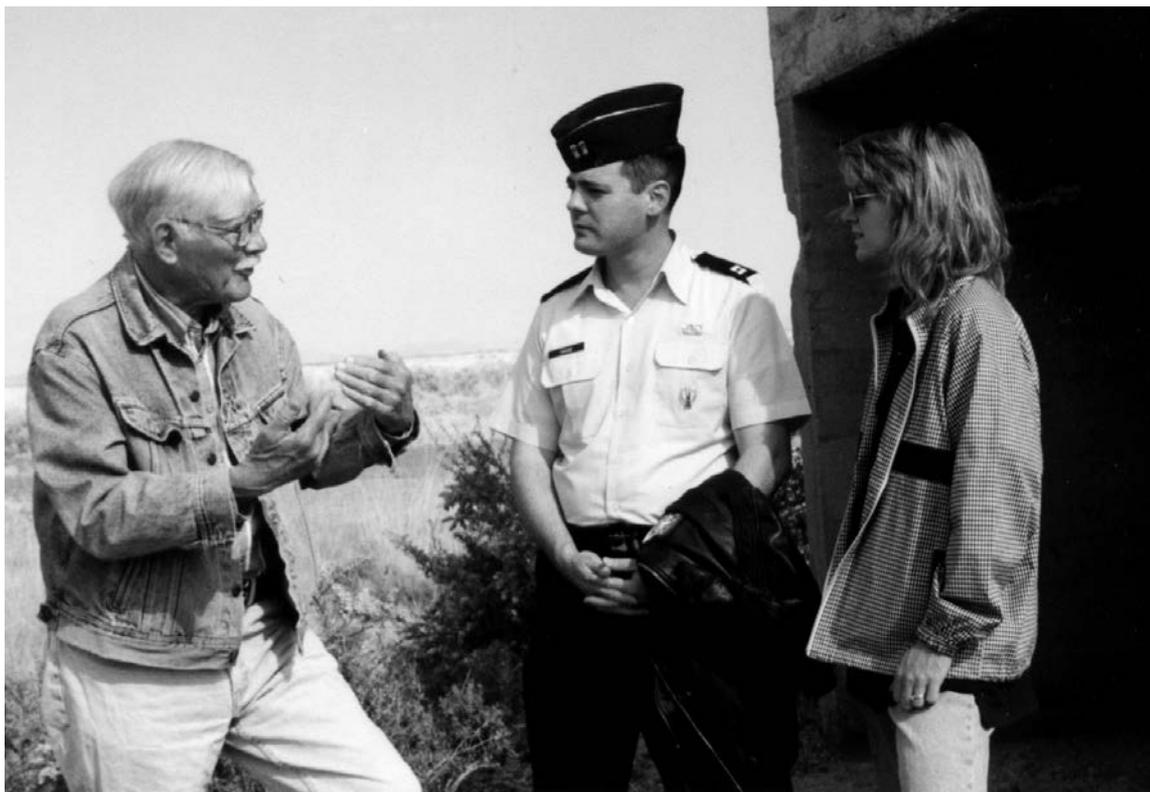
The graduating ceremony for the 2020 class will take place Aug. 27. The event will be livestreamed and recorded for later viewing. Visit the [Weapon Intern Program](#) site to learn more. [@](#)



FROM TINIAN TO ALBUQUERQUE — But for the toss of a coin, Sandia pioneer Leon Smith would have served as the weaponeer on the Enola Gay on its fateful mission to drop a nuclear bomb on Hiroshima, precipitating the end of World War II. Leon, seen here in front of a B-29 at the [National Museum of Nuclear Science and History](#), died in 2012 at the age of 92. He served the Labs for 41 years, rising into management early and overseeing several critical technologies and decisions in Sandia's evolution. **Photo by Randy Montoya**

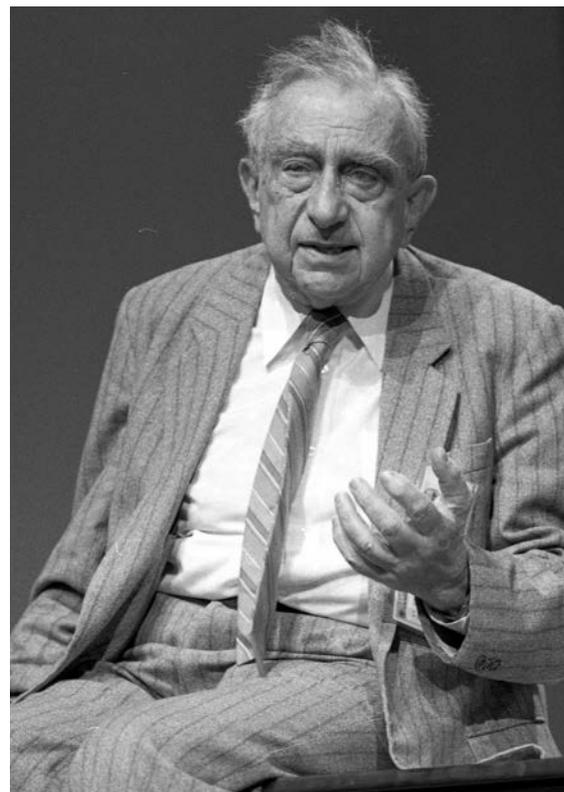


CLASS TRIP — A 2019 Weapon Intern Program class visited the Strategic Weapons Facility, Pacific, in Bangor, Washington. **Photo courtesy of Sandia National Laboratories**



SIX MILES WEST — Ben Benjamin, left, describes what it was like to observe the first test of an atomic bomb to U.S. Air Force Capt. Brian Gaude, member of the 2001 Weapon Intern Program class, and Michele Caldwell, member of the 2000 WIP class. They are standing next to the western monitoring station where many of the test cameras were installed, six miles from ground zero at the Trinity site.

Photo by Randy Montoya



HISTORY REVISITED — At a special meeting with a WIP class at Sandia, students and mentors alike sat spellbound and enthralled by the wisdom of Edward Teller, the “Father of the Atomic Age.”

Photo by Randy Montoya



BIG MISSION, BIG TEAM — Retired Sandia Executive Vice President and Deputy Labs Director Jerry McDowell gives an impromptu talk to a Weapon Intern Program class that toured Sandia’s Nuclear Weapon Legacy Hardware collection. Jerry spoke to the class shortly before his retirement, telling them that the nuclear weapons mission requires a very big team.

Photo by Randy Montoya



FAMILY BUSINESS — Col. Paul Tibbets IV, commander of the U.S. Air Force Inspection Agency at Kirtland Air Force Base, took time out of his schedule to brief a Weapon Intern Program class about B2 operations in advance of their trip to Whiteman Air Force Base in Missouri. Tibbets is the grandson of Col. Paul Tibbets, who commanded the 509th Composite Group and flew the Enola Gay in the atomic attack on Hiroshima at the close of World War II.

Photo by Randy Montoya



ONE LAST LOOK — As Harold Rarrick prepares to turn in his clearance badge after 65 years, he reflects on two lifetimes’ worth of service to Sandia and the nation. Harold started at the Labs in 1949 and retired in 1993, but remained involved with Sandia as a consultant and senior mentor in the Weapon Intern Program until 2014.

Photo by Randy Montoya



CLOSER LOOK — Participants in the 2006 Weapon Intern Program class examine a B61 weapon shape. The class had 21 students, including 11 Sandians as well as students from the U.S. Air Force, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, NNSA and the Kansas City National Security Campus (formerly Kansas City Plant).

Photo by Randy Montoya



MISSILE SITE — A Weapon Intern Program class takes a close look at a Nike command-guided, long-range, high-altitude anti-aircraft missile model.

Photo courtesy of Sandia National Laboratories



‘MIGHTY A’ — A 2019 Weapon Intern Program class visits the USS Alabama Battleship Memorial Park in Mobile, Alabama.

Photo courtesy of Sandia National Laboratories

Tracking warranties creates efficiencies

Facilities' warranty management program achieves \$1M in cost avoidance in its first year

By Jennifer Sawayda

It has happened to nearly everyone. We purchase an expensive item like a car or piece of equipment. Something goes wrong, and we're suddenly faced with a large repair bill or equipment replacement. Before grabbing the credit card, it's always best to check to see if the item is under warranty. It can result in saving large sums of money that would otherwise have been spent on repairs or replacements. By pursuing this course of action, Sandia has achieved \$1 million in cost avoidance within a one-year period.

Sandia partners with multiple businesses and contractors on construction projects across the Labs every year that involve the purchase of a wide variety of materials and equipment. The projects range from constructing new buildings to installing new roofs or heating and cooling systems. Replacing parts or equipment involves spending valuable resources that need to be diverted from other areas.

To mitigate this risk, the work coordination and control department in Sandia's facilities infrastructure services center launched a new warranty recovery management program in February 2019. Before the centralized warranty recovery program was established, warranties tended to be tracked on a less formal basis, resulting in missed opportunities to have contractors and equipment vendors correct malfunctioning products and services covered under warranty.

"This program was established so that Sandia could be a better steward of taxpayer dollars," said Gloria Hill, a Sandia warranty coordinator. "Every dollar saved having to correct something under warranty recovers resources for the Labs."

Same system, new function

Under the new warranty recovery

program, the team leverages Maximo — the computerized maintenance management system used to monitor and execute maintenance service requests at Sandia — to track and flag equipment and construction projects under warranty. This allows for more thorough correction of items that fail while under warranty, placing the responsibility on external partners rather than the Sandia organization to pay to have them repaired.

Because the program holds Sandia's partners accountable for correcting materials and equipment that break or malfunction while still under warranty, Sandia has spent fewer dollars on correcting defects, allowing the Labs to use the money saved to fix and enhance other areas. And with fewer repairs to oversee, maintenance and construction managers can focus greater attention on their core job of meeting customer needs.

Another benefit of the warranty recovery program is that by holding partners responsible for replacing defective or malfunctioning assets under warranty, Sandia is establishing a standard for quality work. Additionally, using Maximo's warranty module to track warranties makes the process more efficient for maintenance and construction managers, who would spend valuable time determining who is responsible for fixing the problem.

"This program has allowed us to do a better job of tracking warranties," said Abigail Vogel, a Sandia construction manager. "Contractors are required under the warranty to fix project deficiencies within a certain time period, and they do a good job of correcting problems quickly, which benefits our customers."

Customers also play a crucial role in the warranty process, as they know what is needed for their particular project. For example, during construction of the Battery Test Facility, Armando Fresquez was involved as a technician in the construction process. He participated in the building walkthrough when construction was finished to ensure the building met the project's requirements.

"It's critical that the customer be involved and look at it with a fresh set of eyes because they can identify potential issues that might have been overlooked," he said.

The partnerships of customers, maintenance managers, construction managers, contractors, the warranty team and other departments are crucial to the success of this new program. By avoiding over \$1 million in repair costs, the warranty program has allowed Sandia not only to save resources, but also emphasize the importance of quality in construction projects throughout the Labs. 



BEFORE AND AFTER — When the stucco on Bldg. 970 started to crumble, Facilities' new warranty management program came to the rescue and identified the applicable warranty. With only one day left on the warranty, Sandia reached out to the provider and was able to have the stucco corrected at no cost.



Photos by Joshua D. Otero

SANDIA CLASSIFIED ADS

NOTE: The classified ad deadline for the Aug. 28 Lab News is noon Friday, Aug. 21.

AD SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

AD SUBMISSION DEADLINE: Friday noon before the week of publication unless changed by holiday.

Questions to Michelle Fleming at 505-844-4902.

Submit by one of the following methods:

- **EMAIL:** Michelle Fleming (classads@sandia.gov)
- **FAX:** 505-844-0645
- **MAIL:** MS1468 (Dept. 3651)

- **INTERNAL WEB:** Click on the News tab at the top of the TechWeb homepage to visit the News Center, then select Announcements >> Submit Announcement.

Due to space constraints, ads will be printed on a first-come, first-served basis.

MISCELLANEOUS

SHOW THROWER ATTACHMENT, TwinPro, \$650, East Mountains. Willmas, djwillmas@gmail.com.

DIAMOND/SAPPHIRE RING, Vera Wang Love Collection, 14K white gold, paid \$3,400, asking \$2,600. Ashe, 505-235-2552.

COUCH & LOVESEAT, Ashley Durablend, leather, search models 9430038 & 9430035 for photos, \$700. Salas, 505-321-9716.

WINDOW AIR CONDITIONER, Kenmore, refrigerated, \$300; specialized adult male bike, \$400. Portillos, 505-249-7104, ask for Gilbert.

LADY'S GOLF CLUBS, bag, cart, \$300; Bazooka driver, \$100; putting green, \$30; excellent condition. Anderson, 505-293-2490.

TV STAND, glass/metal, \$25; microwave oven, \$10; metal shelves, 3-tier, heavy, \$10 ea.; 42-qt. ice cooler on wheels, \$10. Achyuthan, 505-216-1858 or keaama@juno.com, ask for Ann.

RUBBER FLOOR MATS, all-weather, fits Infiniti QX70, like new, \$60. Page, 505-274-4809.

MILK FROTHER, Bodum, battery-operated, 5 fl. oz., hardly used, in original box, \$10. Wagner, 505-504-8783.

ARTICLES ON FELINE CARE, Fabulous Felines, fabulousfelines.org, free. Stubblefield, 505-263-3468.

TRANSPORTATION

'15 **HYUNDAI ELANTRA SE,** backup camera, new battery, up to 38-mpg, 55K miles, \$8,700 OBO. Torres, 505-730-7215.

'11 **TOYOTA VENZA, 2.7L,** 4-cyl., FWD, 21/27-mpg, roof rack, blue, 19-in. wheels, 163K miles, clean in/out, located in NM, \$9,000. Bernal, bfbernal@gmail.com.

'07 **JEEP LIBERTY, 4x4,** limited, white, w/receiver hitch, 148K miles, original owner, \$5,000 firm. Delgado, 505-917-7090.

'18 **FORD F150 XLT,** chrome & luxury electronics pkg., blue, cloth seats, 33.8K miles, very good condition, \$37,500 OBO. Winter, 505-699-7231 or jcwints@gmail.com.

REAL ESTATE

6-BDR. HOME, plus in-law suite/pool house, 5 baths, 4-car oversized garage, North Albuquerque Acres. To, 505-553-1611.

AD RULES

1. Limit 18 words, including last name and home phone (web or email address counts as two or three words, depending on length).
2. Include organization and full name with ad submission.
3. Submit ad in writing. No phone-ins.
4. Type or print ad legibly; use accepted abbreviations.
5. One ad per issue.
6. The same ad may not run more than twice.
7. No "for rent" ads except for employees on temporary assignment.
8. No commercial ads.
9. For active Sandia members of the workforce and retired Sandians only.
10. Housing listed for sale is available without regard to race, creed, color or national origin.
11. Work wanted ads are limited to student-aged children of employees.
12. We reserve the right not to publish any ad that may be considered offensive or in poor taste.

Sandia Science & Tech Park

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

“Everyone benefits when Sandia can team on technical, collaborative projects with park companies,” he said. “Together, Sandia and the companies can explore solutions to challenges faced in the public and private sectors. A culture of collaboration continues to be engrained within the Labs because it’s an important and essential way to solve problems.”

Total wages, for both direct and indirect employment, for the two-year period were \$887.8 million, according to the report. Direct employment refers to people employed at the park. Indirect employment estimates jobs that would not have existed without employment or investment in the park. For example, investments in infrastructure could lead to temporary construction employment, which are indirect jobs.

During 2018-19, eight companies moved into the park and 310 direct jobs were added. The average full-time annual salary in the park was \$95,000, well above the average annual salary of \$49,000 for full-time employees in the Albuquerque metro area.

Creating opportunities

“It’s great to see what the SS&TP has become,” said Albuquerque Mayor Tim Keller. “The park is creating opportunities for Albuquerque residents and businesses by advancing state-of-the-art accomplishments in this area.”

At the end of 2019, the park was home to 2,369 employees working in 48 companies and organizations, including some Sandia sites. About two-thirds of park employees work in scientific and technical fields, performing work that requires a high degree of expertise and training, the report concludes. For every direct job located in the park in 2018 and 2019, nearly two indirect jobs were created in the region, according to the report. The park sustains approximately 4,500 indirect jobs per year.

“The Sandia Science & Technology Park continues to bolster the local economy and make a significant economic impact,” said Jackie Kerby Moore, Sandia’s manager of technology and economic development and the Labs’ program manager for the park. “In addition to sizeable increases in tax revenues and wages, the park provides high-paying jobs to people in Albuquerque who want to work on important national security projects.”

Impacting community since 1998

The report concluded that the park has contributed significantly to the local economy since its establishment in 1998. In its 22-year history, the park has helped produce \$147.5 million in tax revenue for the state of New Mexico and \$32 million for the city of Albuquerque. The park also paid \$6.4 billion in wages and helped generate an estimated \$3.7 billion in taxable personal consumption.

“The benefits of having a tech park like this in Albuquerque are invaluable to the community,” said Executive Director Dewey Cave of the Mid-Region Council of Governments. “It provides successful jobs and a way of life for many people that wouldn’t have these options otherwise. We hope it continues to grow.”

Some of the highly technical direct jobs offered by the companies include computer and electronic

product manufacturing, electrical equipment and appliance manufacturing, telecommunications, metal product manufacturing and scientific services.

The tech park is also home to a credit union, schools, a museum, an early childhood center, parks, exercise stations and walking and biking trails. A community center, ball fields and housing are within walking distance from the businesses.

Private, public investments

Investments in the park since 1998 total \$396 million, with \$306 million coming from private sources and \$90 million coming from public investment. According to the report, private and public investment in the park creates direct and indirect jobs, helps maintain existing jobs and contributes to the overall health and security of the regional economy.

“Since 1998, the Sandia Science & Technology Park has continued to expand and benefit the local community and state by offering high-paying positions at companies and organizations in a variety of fields,” said Sherman McCorkle, chairman of the board of the [SS&TP Development Corp.](#)

COVID-19 research efforts

In addition to the economic impact, some park companies have worked on COVID-19 projects and established programs to address some of today’s scientific, financial and social challenges.

- [Xertrix Technologies](#) rapidly produced 100 tubes that Sandia requested for [pathogen management kits](#). Once authorized, these kits will be attached to ventilation equipment to treat patients with severe cases of COVID-19 while decreasing the risk of spreading the virus.
- [PADT](#) is supporting the response to COVID-19 by using 3D printing and engineering to help create personal protective equipment for medical workers.
- [Sandia Laboratory Federal Credit Union](#) quickly adapted and found ways to help clients during the COVID-19 pandemic. The credit union offered payment relief, loan deferment and personal relief loans for members, and actively participated in the federal government’s Payment Protection Program by processing and approving 322 applications, totaling more than \$14 million. The credit union funneled



COVID-19 RESEARCH — Xertrix Technologies, a Sandia Science & Technology Park company, provided 100 tubes to Sandia for pathogen management kits that convert respiratory machines into ventilators. Xertrix Technologies is one of several park companies that have worked on COVID-19 projects this year.

Photo courtesy of Sandia National Laboratories

much-needed financing for businesses in the SS&TP and elsewhere.

- [NMA Ventures](#) is helping companies with financial modeling during this challenging time by offering virtual office hours.
- Like other Albuquerque high schools, the [Technology Leadership High School](#) canceled their commencement ceremony for 34 seniors to ensure 2020 graduates’ safety. As an alternative, staff members scheduled individual graduation ceremonies to honor students all over Albuquerque and Rio Rancho for their hard work and commitment.

“We are grateful that park companies stepped up to address issues tied to the global pandemic,” Jackie said. “They came up with innovative and timely solutions.”

The park is a partnership of Albuquerque Public Schools, Bernalillo County, the city of Albuquerque, the Mid-Region Council of Governments, the New Mexico congressional delegation, the New Mexico State Land Office, PNM, Sandia National Laboratories, the SS&TP Development Corp., the state of New Mexico, the Department of Energy, the National Nuclear Security Administration and the U.S. Economic Development Administration.

Visit the [Working with Sandia](#) section of the Labs’ external website, [sandia.gov](#), for more information on Sandia’s technology and economic development partnerships. [f](#)

Vitalant resumes on-site blood drives

Sandia’s Community Involvement team has coordinated with Vitalant to resume on-site blood drives. Employees can check the Sandia Daily News for dates and locations of future drives. The team plans to host Sandia drives off-site as well, to better accommodate employees who are working from home. [f](#)



DONATION STATION — First-time donor Vincent VanGemert, right, and long-time donor Tim Meisenheimer, back, participate in a blood donation drive in the lobby of the Steve Schiff Auditorium in early August. The lobby set-up worked well, allowing plenty of open space to accommodate social distancing. The first drive was a success — 46 units of blood were donated.

Photo by Amy Tapia

Today's virtual reality

A novel approach to engaging employees

By **Karli Massey**

Safety Month is a national campaign each June that focuses on how to prevent injuries and save lives. At Sandia, Safety & Health Month is a long-standing tradition that has varied in scope ranging from vendor fairs to hands-on activities across the Labs. In 2019, a series of live events and information sessions was held with great success.

Each July, Sandia also promotes Financial Wellness Month to focus on financial education as a key to health, success and well-being. For both the Safety & Health and Financial Wellness campaigns, employees from across Sandia have historically converged to hear and learn about wellness in the workplace.

This year, the events associated with the initiatives had to be adapted to a virtual approach, like so many other activities and events in local communities. While it's not a new means of getting employees involved, it is a novel way

to bring people together in a socially distanced environment.

The 2020 Safety & Health Month was a collaboration between Environment, Safety and Health and Employee Health Services. To help drive interest and participation, a list of activities was developed featuring online presentations and videos throughout the month. The success was tremendous — this year's virtual events reached 3,238 employees, a 218% increase over 2019's live events.

Financial Wellness Month this year also employed an all-virtual approach with live web streams, workshops, activities and online resources featuring weekly financial tips and videos. More than 3,770 people enrolled for the offerings, compared to 2,337 enrollments in 2019.

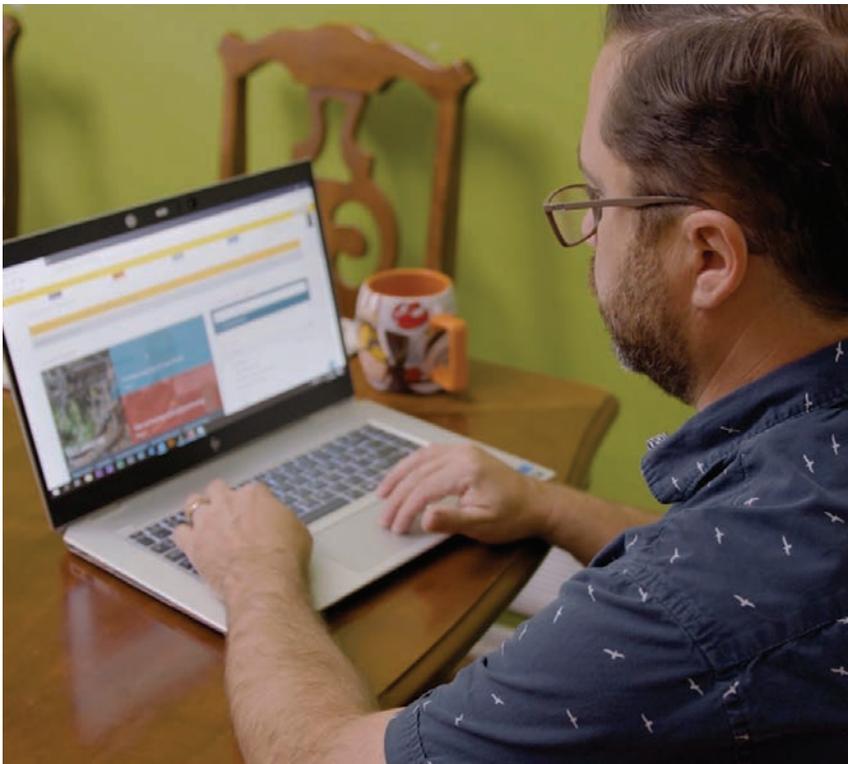
"People are eager to stay connected and want to participate somehow in Sandia's traditions," said Mary Romero Hart, senior manager in Human Resources. "The virtual model is proving to be a viable method in connecting Sandians with information they value — even when

they have been long-accustomed to attending in-person educational offerings."

"Safety in the workplace is still ingrained while people are working from home," said Johnathon Huff, director of ES&H. "With about 60-70% of Sandians still reporting to work from a home office on any given day, we leveraged Safety & Health Month this year to increase participation in ergonomic information sessions."

Ensuring proper ergonomics at a home office is a challenge for some. Activities like monthly promotions and other online outreach sessions are helping the workforce learn about correcting desk setups and the importance of taking frequent breaks. In addition, these sessions provide an opportunity to connect with colleagues with a similar focus on safety and health, albeit virtually.

Many of the Safety & Health and Financial Wellness virtual information sessions were recorded and are available to Sandia's work-force and families in the video library on the [HR employee website](#). 



HOME WORK — Joel Ortiz, video producer and director, works from home about 75% of the time. Primarily using a laptop, he was able to get recommendations during a virtual info session for a more ergo-friendly arrangement than his initial setup shown here. Employees can take an online ergo self-assessment at [ergozone.sandia.gov](#). **Photo courtesy of Joel Ortiz**



EVENTS GO VIRTUAL — One of last year's Safety & Health Month activities was a fair held at Hardin Field on Kirtland Air Force Base. With so many working from home now and following restrictions due to the pandemic, these social interactions have been moved to virtual platforms such as online presentations and videos. **Photo by Lonnie Anderson**

Back to School Brigade



DRIVE BY FOR SUPPLIES — U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Kimberly E. Strong, 377th Force Support Squadron superintendent, hands out a backpack during the Back to School Brigade, a drive-through school supplies pickup event at Kirtland Air Force Base July 29. This year, Sandians donated 250 backpacks, as well as \$1,300 toward the purchase of additional school supplies for the event. The annual event provides school supplies for the dependents of military personnel and civilians working on base. **Photo courtesy of Kirtland Air Force Base**

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