

# QUANTUM NEW MEXICO

New Mexico is a Quantum State

Ellen R. Fisher Vice President for Research University of New Mexico April 1, 2022

# Some Symposium Highlights & Kudos

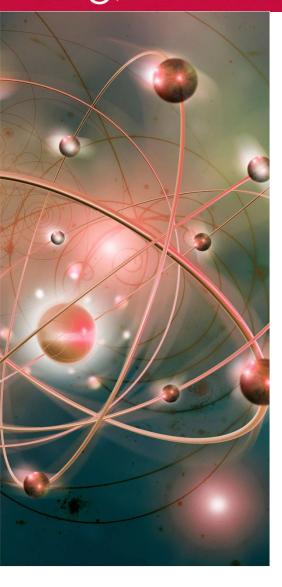
- Amazing efforts of our organizing committee
- Fantastic attendance
  - ~125-150 participants in person on Day 1
  - Over 225 registered
  - Numerous dignitaries and partners
    - Government leadership/representatives
    - University leadership
    - National Labs (SNL, LANL, AFRL)
- Outstanding, informative tours
  - Quantum experiments in action



QUANTUM NEW MEXICO > New Mexico is A Quantum State <u>the</u>

Senator Martin Heinrich Sandia CRO Susan Seestrom Los Alamos Deputy Director John Sarrao





**NM** RESEARCH

# Quantum 2.0 – A revolution, a renaissance, an evolution

- Quantum 1.0: deep understanding of quantum mechanics
  - New Mexico institutions pioneering innovations
  - Quantum Information Science (and Technology)
- Quantum 2.0: How do we harness the full power of QIS?
  - Acceleration of technology developments
  - Managing expectations
  - Financial investments by government, industry
  - Enhanced and targeted workforce development
- Why New Mexico?
  - Rich history and thriving quantum ecosystem
  - Extant assets, collaborations, expertise, workforce

### Quantum 2.0 – A revolution, a renaissance, an evolution?



# The QNM Project: This is where it starts to get interesting...

- "Leveling up" public/private partnership
  - Optimizing coordination
  - Ensuring shared vision(s)
  - Increasing visibility
- Multipronged approach
  - QNM Institute (QNM-I)
    - Trainee opportunities
    - Visibility
  - QNM Coalition (QNM-C)
    - Broadening partnerships
    - Industry impacts
  - Infrastructure investments
    - Broadband
    - High performance and cloud computing
    - Advanced manufacturing

Quantum computers Quantum superposition Quantum Jumps

The new joint QNM Institute between UNM and Sandia in Quantum Information Science will be a multiplicative factor.

# **Quantum Advancement: A National Priority**

- Choose a Science-First Approach
- ✓ Create a Quantum-Smart Workforce
- ✓ Deepen Engagement
- ✓ Provide Critical Infrastructure
- Maintain National Security & Economic Growth
- ✓ Advance International Cooperation

QNM represents an ideal ecosystem in which these key policy opportunities could be implemented!



NATIONAL STRATEGIC OVERVIEW FOR QUANTUM INFORMATION SCIENCE

Product of the SUBCOMMITTEE ON QUANTUM INFORMATION SCIENCE under the COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE of the NATIONAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL SEPTEMBER 2018

# **Promise of Enormous, Broad Impact Across Multiple Sectors**

- Quantum technologies are broad, with radical new paradigms
  - Computing
  - Communications,
  - Cyber security
  - Sensing
  - Arts, Film & Digital Media
- Standing up quantum technologies needs broad development, engagement
  - Quantum materials development,
  - IT infrastructure (e.g., broadband, cloud computing)
  - Advanced manufacturing



## Challenges Facing a Quantum Economy: Managing Expectations

- Translating theory into practice
- Scale up
- Resources
- Socio-economic and ethical challenges

QNM will help provide viable solutions!

#### Gaps in Fundamental Science

Quantum science is still a developing field with existing gaps in knowledge that limit tech-readiness. For example, it is not yet clear which tasks quantum computers will handle better than classical computers. The primitive quantum systems of today need to reduce "noise" in their hardware, scale up, and prove their superiority.

#### Bottlenecks to Increased Growth

Quantum computers require the development of related software, programming, networking, and security systems, all of which rely on the development of quantum systems. Similarly, scale-up of manufacturing processes is an expected problem as production chains cannot be developed before the technology.

#### Maintenance of Financial Support

As with any new and developing market, funding levels go through cycles. Upfront hype and public funding often decline into a "valley of death." As time advances, ongoing challenges arise from the uncertainty of government support and hesitance of companies to invest due to a broad landscape of technology choice.

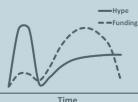
#### Long-term Ramifications

Once fully developed, QIST sectors will face several socio-economic and ethical challenges. The complexity and expected cost of systems will mean unequal access by nations and local users. Ethical issues are anticipated as ownership will have to be assigned to the private or public sector, despite funding received from both.

August 2020

energy.gov/technologytransitions

ENERGY Office of TECHNOLOGY TRANSITIONS







Long-Term 10+ Years)

Near-Term (1-3 Years)

**Mid-Term** 

Discover more at <u>RESEARCH.unm.edu</u>

## Quantum Workforce Development: National Perspective

Building the Nation's QIST workforce will require coordination among U.S. Government agencies, academic institutions, professional societies, non-profit organizations, industry, and international partners. There are also important roles for STEM educators and institutional experts on diversity, equity and inclusion, to ensure that training in QIST will position more individuals for rewarding careers, and expand America's capacity for high-tech innovation.



OIST WORKFORCE DEVELOPMEN'

QUANTUM INFORMATION SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT NATIONAL STRATEGIC PLAN

A Report by the SUBCOMMITTEE ON QUANTUM INFORMATION SCIENCE

COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

of the NATIONAL SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY COUNCIL

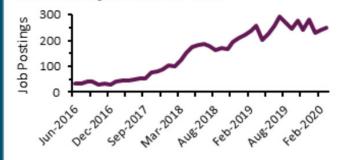
February 2022

# Workforce & Economic Development: NM Quantum Ecosystem

- Increased emphasis on multi-disciplinary programs and research efforts
- Collaboration among academia, industry, agencies
- Integration of research and academic programs
- High profile computational science programs
- Education pathways/networks from K-12 through postsecondary and graduate programs
- High demand from NM National Labs
- Highly diverse population

#### Current State of Hiring in QIST

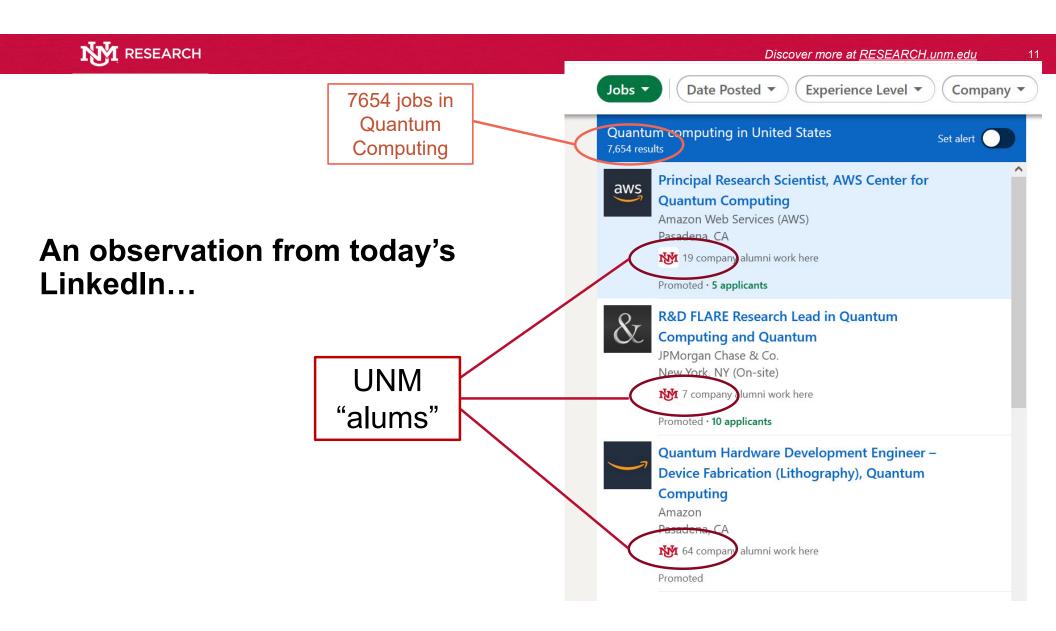
The number of new quantum computing jobs has **increased eight-fold** since 2016.<sup>1</sup>



Even with the hiring increase, many companies struggle to find skilled employees.<sup>2</sup>



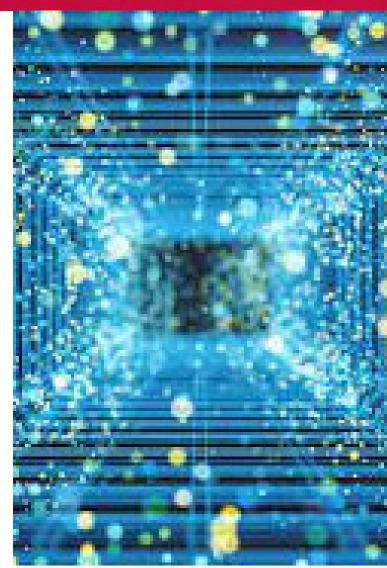
Energy.gov/technologytransitions [August 2020 newsletter]



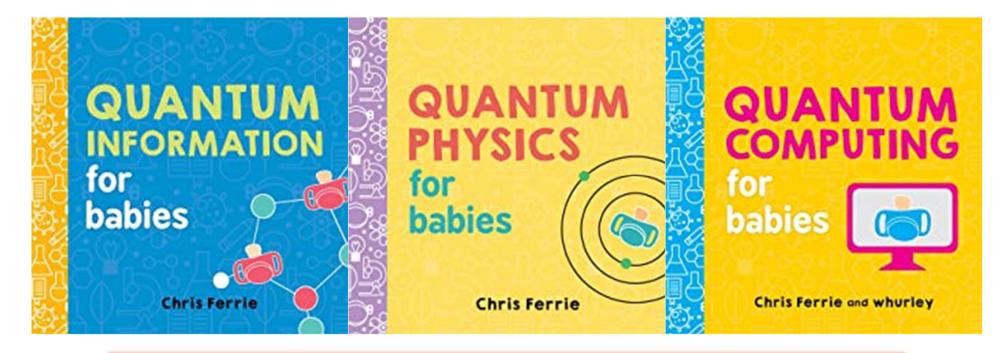
# (Q) Research IV Education

As evidenced by our amazing UNM alum

- Foster critical thinking, effective communication, and analytical skills through hands-on learning
- **Define** academic, career and personal interests
- Expand knowledge and understanding
- Develop one-on-one connections
- Build community with peers, faculty and organizations on- and off-campus
- Create mechanisms for succeeding through failure
- Enhance student outcomes



# It's never too early to start developing the quantum workforce of tomorrow...



Quantum: Truly a foundational and enabling technology

# Engage with the QNM Ecosystem

# Some Next Steps for QNM-C

#### Participate: Technical Exchange Workshop

- Summer 20222
- Programmatic updates on technical goals
- Lightning talks
- Breakout sessions

### Build: NM Educational Network

- QIS working group
- Create education ecosystem to support/sustain programs
- Assessment of current state
- Pursue joint funding

### Create: Regional Quantum Cluster

- Highlight successful history
- Identify key tactics for ongoing engagement
- Identify leaders and influencers



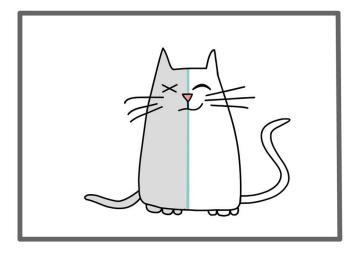
**NM** RESEARCH

# Interested in learning more??

- Summer schools and other community outreach events
- Coordinated briefings to state government and economic development stakeholders
- Questions or suggestions:
  - <u>qnm@unm.edu</u>
  - <u>quantum@sandia.gov</u>

## A last comment on Theoretical vs. Experimental Cats...

# Schrödinger's Cat



#### WHY CATS MAKE BAD SCIENTISTS



