



Accelerate Lea County Innovation & Technology Fair To Be Held January 21, 2011

Hobbs, NM – January 6, 2011 - The Accelerate Lea County Innovation & Technology Fair will be held Friday, January 21, 2011 at the New Mexico Junior College campus. The half-day event is sponsored by the Lea County Commission, New Mexico Junior College, New Mexico Junior College Small Business Development Center and the ETI Innovation Services Group.

The purpose of the Fair is to give innovators, inventors and entrepreneurs the opportunity to learn about how to participate in the process of Lea County's identification and selection of technologically promising ideas, concepts and discoveries for development consideration. The technologies may be from the public or private sector, academia and research laboratories, entrepreneurship or individual enterprise. Those identified with the most potential for lucrative commercialization will be selected for the list of 15 to be included in the *Lea County Technology Landscape* that will be announced in April of this year.

Lea County Commission Chairman Gregg Fulfer said, "The Accelerate Lea County Innovation & Technology Fair is one of many initiatives that Lea County will implement in 2011 to help expand and attract businesses in technology to accelerate economic growth, create jobs and further diversify the county's economy."

Speakers at the January 21st Accelerate Lea County Innovation & Technology Fair will include Dr. Steve McCleery, President, New Mexico Junior College, Gregg Fulfer, Lea County Commission Chairman, and Tommy Harlan, President, Emergent Technologies, Inc.

In addition to Lea County, sponsors of the Fair include New Mexico Junior College, the New Mexico Small Business Development Center Network (NMSBDC) and Emergent Technologies, Inc.

To pre-register by January 20th for the Accelerate Lea County Innovation & Technology Fair, please visit <http://nmsbdc.org/hobbs/showevent.html>

About Lea County

Lea County stands as one of the leading areas for industrial development in the Southwest, particularly in the field of energy. For more than eighty years, Lea County and its five municipalities have comprised an economy based largely on

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the energy industries and have reliably delivered cornerstone energy commodities to the nation. For these reasons Lea County has become known as the EnergyPlex - the nation's epicenter of energy commerce.

The county is the location of a broad spectrum of the nuclear, renewable and petroleum industries, including the \$1.5 billion Urenco USA facility, the nation's most advanced uranium enrichment facility that will provide a secure domestic enrichment fuel supply source to U.S. nuclear energy. Also in Lea County, International Isotopes is building a \$93 million plant that will extract gases from depleted uranium tails that can be used in various products. Looking to the future, Lea County plans to continue to build on its energy industries base and to expand diversification of the economy through the development of new technology sectors. For more information, visit www.leacounty.net

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