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Education

Fusion company gives back to local educational nonprofits



Image: Albuquerque Business First

Pacific Fusion co-founder and COO Carrie von Muench speaking at a fundraising event for STEM education in Albuquerque.

SHARON BROOKS



By Matthew Reichbach – Reporter, Albuquerque Business First
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Story Highlights

- Pacific Fusion donated to seven New Mexico STEM organizations.
- The company plans a \$1 billion Albuquerque facility opening in 2027.
- Pacific Fusion will hire hundreds in coming years in New Mexico.

A big tech company that will be opening a facility in southern Albuquerque wants to help create the next generation of science-minded workforce and made donations to several organizations doing that work.

They made the announcement at an event at Roadrunner Venture Studios last week, with business, government and tech luminaries in attendance.

Pacific Fusion also opened a facility in Los Lunas to build materials for its Demonstration System in Mesa Del Sol at Albuquerque, part of a project of over a billion dollars, which is slated to begin construction next year and begin operations in 2027.

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Company COO Carrie Von Muench said that Pacific Fusion will be hiring hundreds of people in the coming years in New Mexico and, if successful, many more in the following years as they expand.

“All of that can only happen with a strong STEM education and workforce development classes,” she said.

Pacific Fusion looked to help those who are already doing the work in New Mexico and identified a number of groups – R4 Creating, the APS Education Foundation, the National Museum of Nuclear Science & History, Horizons Albuquerque, the New Mexico Manufacturing Extension Partnership, the UNM Valencia Workforce Training Center and **Explora**.

Many of those spoke about their work helping children learn about STEM and STEAM.



Image: Albuquerque Business First

Kristin Leigh, the co-executive director of **Explora**, speaking at a STEM fundraising event.

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Kristin Leigh, the co-executive director of **Explora**, said that developing the workforce is their “bread and butter.”

“It’s core to our career STEAM learning strategic initiative,” she said. “**Explora** has just expanded to include a cradle to the career STEAM learning campus.”

In addition to the organization’s museum and science center, a popular location near Old Town Albuquerque, Leigh said they have the “X Studio,” which provides workforce development for teens and the Brillante Early Learning Center, which provides daycare for students at Central New Mexico Community College.

The other organizations had similar stories of aiding the workforce, which they said would help New Mexico’s local businesses and economy in the coming years.

T H E L I S T

New Mexico's 656 highest-paid occupations

Mean annual wage

Rank	Prior Rank	Company
1	1	Neurologists -
2	2	Surgeons, All Other -
3	3	Cardiologists -
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