



HIGH DESERT DISCOVERY DISTRICT

High Desert Discovery District (HD3) Announces Appointment of Longtime New Mexico Technologist Ronald Tafoya as Technologist in Residence to the Organization

**Will bring broad technology expertise, a commercialization mentality
and connections to HD3's existing and future startups**

July 20, 2016 –The High Desert Discovery District (HD3) – New Mexico's first privately-led high technology start-up accelerator –announced today the appointment of longtime technologist, technology transfer executive and business leader Mr. Ronald Tafoya as Technologist in Residence to HD3 and its portfolio companies.

His appointment is supported by Intel Corporations' Encore Career Fellowship Program.

“Both Intel and Ron have been a good friend to HD3. We have collaborated to co-host Millennial Innovation Discovery Day and Ron has contributed significantly to our efforts to identify and vet promising discoveries. We cannot be more grateful and pleased at this appointment and the opportunity to weave Ron into HD3 more purposefully, and to tap his considerable technical and commercialization skill sets, project management, contacts, knowledge and impressive career wisdom for the benefit of existing and future HD3 portfolio companies,” stated Michelle Miller, Founder and CEO of HD3.

Ron Tafoya recently retired from a 16-year tenure at Intel Corporation. He has served in a variety of roles during his career including technology transfer for the State of New Mexico, the National

Center for Genome Resources and past president of the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Tafoya holds a Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering from the University of New Mexico and a Bachelor of Science, Electrical Engineering and Computer Science from UNM. He holds 5 patents.

Stated Mr. Tafoya “Throughout New Mexico, HD3 is working to leverage the technical and scientific assets and promising discoveries we have all longed to see commercialized into robust entrepreneurial and startup activity that builds opportunity, wealth and jobs for New Mexicans. My career has been well-suited to assist HD3 startups grow to their highest levels and I look forward to getting engaged at a deeper level.”

About HD3

The High Desert Discovery District (HD3) is an independent, non-profit, non-governmental organization committed to identifying and commercializing technology projects in New Mexico. HD3 manages and drives the process of innovation – building New Mexico growth companies based on cutting-edge national laboratory, university research and other discoveries lead by technologists and scientists unassociated with labs or universities. HD3 provides a forum and a methodology for entrepreneurs, scientists, innovators and technologists to be heard and their discovery to be understood by a highly-experienced group of business strategists, successful entrepreneurs and management executives and investors seeking to contribute their own knowledge and experience toward the improvement of the New Mexico entrepreneurial economy. Once a promising, market-validated discovery is identified, HD3 accelerates the discovery and sits in “in the trenches” with the innovators and entrepreneurs to drive it toward progress and successful outcomes. HD3 - the difference between a start-up that **starts**...and a start-up that **succeeds**. For more information about HD3, visit www.hddd.org.

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