

2026 Statewide Diversity Summit

Addendum 3: Mid-Afternoon Breakout Sessions

3:15 p.m.-4:15 p.m. Friday, April 17 Choose a session (A-E) from the options below		
Session A	SSTC 200	<p>Classroom Courage: Sustaining Critical Inquiry in Polarized Times</p> <p>Presenters: Nicole Capehart, UNM-Albuquerque; & Nayer Rimi, UNM-Albuquerque</p> <p>Moderator: Nicole Capehart, UNM-Albuquerque</p> <p>Type: Roundtable Discussion</p> <p>This roundtable examines the ethical and pedagogical responsibility of faculty to engage contested topics with integrity. In a climate of academic freedom challenges and rising misinformation, instructors often oscillate between avoidance and engagement. Moving beyond whether these topics belong in the classroom, this session focuses on the mechanics of shared inquiry. Drawing on diverse faculty and student perspectives, participants will develop strategies to foster psychological safety and student belonging, setting the stage for sustained critical inquiry. By balancing First Amendment principles with compassionate instruction, we explore how to counter misinformation and protect academic freedom in a fractured, polarized climate.</p>
Session B	SSTC 180	<p>Academic Freedom in a Platform Economy</p> <p>Presenter: Jennifer Jordan, UNM-Albuquerque</p> <p>Moderator: Jennifer Jordan, UNM-Albuquerque</p> <p>Type: Individual Presentation</p> <p>Academic freedom is a core value of higher education, yet many faculty teach from materials they cannot revise, remix, or update. This session explores the shifting state of course materials in higher education. Open Educational Resources (OER) allow faculty to align course content with their scholarly and pedagogical expertise, respond to emerging research, and incorporate local and culturally relevant perspectives. In response, commercial publishers have reshaped their business models, potentially narrowing academic freedom.</p> <p>Participants will explore how they can use OER in their courses to support their students, meet their instructional needs, and increase their autonomy.</p>

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Session C	SSTC 172	<p>Bridging Culture, Care, Continuity, and Equity in New Mexico Graduate Nursing Education</p> <p>Presenter: Dr. Sarah Llanque-White, UNM-Albuquerque; Dr. Lisa M. Taylor, UNM-Albuquerque; & Dr. Vanessa Tahe, UNM-Albuquerque</p> <p>Moderator: Dr. Aretha Matt, UNM-Gallup</p> <p>Type: Panel Presentation</p> <p>In the unique cultural landscape of New Mexico—where the intersections of Indigenous heritage, immigrant experiences, and rural life define our student body—teaching is more than information delivery; it is an act of community engagement. This collaborative presentation brings together diverse faculty perspectives from the UNM College of Nursing to explore how culturally responsive pedagogy serves as a foundation for student success and institutional resilience. The session highlights three distinct but interconnected approaches to inclusive excellence. Dr. Sarah Llanque-White and Dr. Vanessa Tahe share strategies for embedding Native American culture and relevant case studies into nursing curricula. Dr. Lisa Taylor and Dr. Vanessa Tahe lead a critical conversation on academic freedom and preparedness. They advocate for trauma-informed “contingency planning”—such as flexible modalities and deadlines—to support students impacted by social tensions and the current climate of change. By reframing flexibility as a facet of academic freedom and student-centered leadership, this session demonstrates how faculty can maintain high academic standards while remaining fiercely committed to the mission of serving New Mexico’s diverse families.</p>
Session D	SSTC 162	<p>A New Mexican Diversity Committee Work in Contentious Times</p> <p>Presenter: Layla M. Dehaiman, UNM-Albuquerque; Shiv R. Desai, Ph.D, UNM-Albuquerque; Jair Munoz, Ph.D, UNM-Albuquerque; & Jen Stacy, Ph.D, UNM-Albuquerque</p> <p>Moderator: Michael Dominguez, Ph.D, UNM-Albuquerque</p> <p>Type: Individual Presentation</p> <p>As university faculty at UNM-Main Campus in the COEHS, the Diversity Committee is aware of the need to uplift critical diverse works and disrupt spaces that train individuals who serve the larger NM community. In our work we have developed a series of events that has helped to transform the College into spaces where constant dialogue is happening around the critical topics needed to create a community of educators and providers that understand identity and community-engaged work and research as situated amidst today’s socio-political climate.</p>

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Session E	SSTC 108	<p>Let Freedom Read: Libraries and the First Amendment</p> <p>Presenter: Markos Chavez, UNM-Gallup; Dr. David Cox, NMTU; & Valerie Nye, SFCC</p> <p>Moderator: Markos Chavez, UNM-Gallup</p> <p>Type: Individual Presentation</p> <p>This session will discuss the history of libraries and the first amendment. Today, attempts to ban books are being fought by libraries nationwide. Learn how libraries today are fending off first amendment attacks and are continuing to provide free and equitable information to everyone.</p>
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