

2026 Statewide Diversity Summit

Addendum 4: Late Afternoon Breakout Sessions

4:30 p.m.-5:30 p.m. | Friday, April 17 | Choose a session (A-E) from the options below

Session A	SSTC 200	Beyond Cause of Death: Forensic Pathology and Social Determinants of Death in New Mexico Presenters: Daniel F. Gallego, M.D., UNM-Albuquerque Moderator: Daniel F. Gallego, M.D., UNM-Albuquerque Type: Individual Presentation In this session, Dr. Daniel F. Gallego presents a series of forensic pathology case reviews that move beyond the morgue to illustrate the systemic 'Social Determinants of Death' in New Mexico. While forensic pathology is often viewed strictly through a medicolegal lens, the data gathered from cause and manner of death determinations provides an undeniable, empirical record of structural inequity. Through the presentation of clinical case data—including border-crosser fatalities, substance use trends, and deaths within carceral settings—this session demonstrates how medical findings translate into broader social realities. Attendees will examine how factors such as immigration policy, lack of healthcare access, and systemic neglect manifest physically in the human body. By framing the forensic autopsy as a tool for advocacy and public health, this presentation aligns with the summit's mission of Solidarity and Liberation, offering a data-driven foundation for addressing the disparities that disproportionately affect New Mexico's marginalized and underserved communities.
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Session B	SSTC 180	Diversifying Discourses of Immigration: A Perspective from International Faculty Presenter: Dr. Cleophas Muneri, UNM-Albuquerque; & Dr. Meshell L. Sturgis, UNM-Albuquerque Moderators: Dr. Cleophas Muneri & Dr. Meshell L. Sturgis Type: Individual Presentation Depending on how “Black” is defined, New Mexico is home to a Black population that includes African Americans and those of the Black diaspora from Africa, the Caribbean, and South America. While these groups have unique histories and cultural experiences they are often viewed and treated as a monolith. The same can be said for discourses that surround immigrant identity in the state. So much discourse around immigration in efforts to align with New Mexico’s position as a border state, might miss the struggles and experiences of other minoritized international faculty. However, in this presentation, one faculty member will add to this conversation by sharing a diasporic conscious perspective about Black life in New Mexico where Black faculty must navigate not only flattened conceptions of what it means to be Black in the United States, but also reductionist ideas of who is considered an immigrant in the United States. This presentation is part of a larger research project entitled Black And... Negotiating the Complexity of Diaspora Community Building that is currently funded by a UNM RAC Grant with (Drs. Cleophas Muneri and Meshell Sturgis as lead PIs on the project).
Session C	SSTC 172	Narrative Sovereignty: After centuries of erasure, Indigenous authors still fight censorship Presenter: Deborah Taffa Moderator: Deborah Taffa Type: Individual Presentation We need more Indigenous authors and filmmakers. By reclaiming our narrative sovereignty, we ensure authentic representation, define our own depictions, and prevent harmful stereotypes. Stories have power. Stories matter. Yet since the advent of modern media, Indigenous people have been portrayed, almost exclusively, through an outsider’s lens. What issues of censorship and erasure remain in publishing and film? Where are we in our collective struggle today? Some say we are entering a new golden age of Native literature, a second Native Renaissance. Given the statistics, and certain protocols in big publishing houses, how is this assessment problematic?

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Session D	SSTC 162	Humanity Matters: Acknowledging Mrs. Henrietta Lacks and Her HeLa Cells Presenter: Deleso Alford, JD, LLM Moderator: Deleso Alford, JD, LLM Type: Individual Presentation This session will address Professionalism for legal and healthcare professionals by exploring the lived experiences of Mrs. Henrietta Lacks (circa 1951) during the legal dehumanization of black people in Baltimore, Maryland at Johns Hopkins segregated medical wards. Through the utilization of storytelling and story listening, learners will discover that the “arc of justice” bends toward acknowledging that humanity matters. Session goals include demonstrating how cultural humility can positively impact quality health care and dignity for all human subjects.
Session E	SSTC 108	Moving Forward, the New Face of the Trades Presenter: Karen Torres, LCC; Cristino Griego, LCC; Dominic Garcia, LCC; Gene Sandoval, LCC; Tracy Morales, LCC; & Gene Martinez, LCC Moderator: Karen Torres, LCC Type: Panel Presentation This session explores the transformative demographic shifts within Career Technical Education (CTE) at Luna Community College, specifically the “New Face of the Trades” in Northern New Mexico. As traditional classrooms evolve, our leadership team has collaborated to foster a unique environment of intergenerational mentorship and gender diversity within historically monolithic programs such as CDL, Welding, Auto Tech, Auto Collision, and Culinary Arts. We will examine how the shop floor becomes a space for “liberatory practice,” where “parent-students,” career-transitioners, and Gen Z learners build solidarity across diverse backgrounds. Participants will gain strategies for supporting non-traditional learners through inclusive technical training that serves as a powerful catalyst for community economic liberation.