

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO-GALLUP
2026 STATEWIDE DIVERSITY SUMMIT

Day 2 Keynote Program

April 18, 2026 | Calvin Hall Center Auditorium

Saturday Morning 9 a.m. - 10 a.m.

Mistress of Ceremonies

Dr. Aretha Matt, Associate Professor, English, UNM-Gallup

Invocation

The Rev. Dr. Hilary Borbón Smith, Adjunct Faculty, UNM-Gallup, Vicar, Holy Spirit Episcopal, Gallup, N.M.

Land Acknowledgement

Tara Ashley, Student Worker, UNM-Gallup

Welcome Remarks

Professor John Zimmerman, Dean of Instruction, UNM-Gallup

Keynote Speaker Introduction

Markos Chavez, Library Director, UNM-Gallup

Keynote Address

The Honorable Deb Haaland, 54th U.S. Secretary of the Interior

Saturday Afternoon 12:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

Master of Ceremonies


Markos Chavez, Library Director, UNM-Gallup

Keynote Speaker Introduction

Karla Baldonado, Director, Center for Career and Technical Education, UNM-Gallup

Keynote Address

Dr. Eric Romero, Director of Native American Hispano Studies, New Mexico Highlands University, Las Vegas, N.M.



The University of New Mexico-Gallup
2026 Statewide Diversity Summit
Keynote Speaker

The Honorable Deb Haaland



Presentation Details

9 a.m. Saturday
April 18, 2026
Calvin Hall Center
Auditorium (CHC 248)

Presentation Title

Delivering Solutions for Working Families

How Diverse Experiences Shape the Best Solutions

Speaker Biography

Deb Haaland is a fierce leader — repeatedly breaking down barriers for future generations. A 35th generation New Mexican who organized for President Obama and led the New Mexico State Democratic Party, she made an unprecedented run and win as one of the first Native women to serve in the U.S. House of Representatives and then made history when she was appointed to serve as Secretary of the Interior.

In all of her roles, her prolific leadership led to accomplishments that make the lives of working families better. She brings her personal experience as a military kid, a single mom, and a Pueblo woman to stand up for working families, Native and underserved communities, and to address the climate crisis. Now, she's running to be the next governor of New Mexico.

The University of New Mexico-Gallup
2026 Statewide Diversity Summit
Keynote Speaker

Dr. Eric Romero



Presentation Details

12:30 p.m. Saturday
April 18, 2026
Calvin Hall Center
Auditorium (CHC 248)

Presentation Title

We Have a Dream

Traditional Wisdom as a Foundation for Moving Forward

Speaker Biography

Dr. Eric Romero is, presently, the Director of Native American/Hispano Cultural Studies and is also faculty in the Department of Languages and Culture at New Mexico Highlands University. He benefits from over 40 years of university teaching and has served in several administrative, research and coordination positions. His academic background are Cultural, Linguistic and Cognitive Anthropology. He has taught in several states and abroad in many different disciplines. He has been involved in the New Mexico Highlands University President's Council for Diversity Equity and Inclusion since its establishment in 2015.