

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

# Dr. Patricia Trujillo



## Presentation Details

9 a.m. Friday  
April 17, 2026  
Calvin Hall Center  
Auditorium (CHC 248)

## Presentation Title

# Solidarity in Action

## Lessons from the New Mexico Basic Needs Movement

## Speaker Biography

Patricia Trujillo, Ph.D., is the deputy cabinet secretary of the New Mexico Higher Education Department. She is a state leader and advocate focused on expanding access and affordability, advancing social justice, and supporting historically underserved communities in higher education. Dr. Trujillo was on the leadership team that secured tuition-free college and the Higher Education Trust Fund for New Mexico — the most comprehensive college promise program in the United States. Once tuition-free college became law, her work focused on the everyday realities students face beyond tuition — food, housing, mental and behavioral health, transportation, and family responsibilities. She has helped direct over \$5 million toward basic needs supports statewide and built shared infrastructure, including a basic needs survey across 27 institutions and the co-founding of the New Mexico Basic Needs Consortium. A native of the Española Valley, she is a tenured professor, was the founding director of the Office of Equity and Diversity at Northern New Mexico College and is a published scholar.