

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO-GALLUP
2026 STATEWIDE DIVERSITY SUMMIT

Keynote Program Participants



Dr. Antoinette Abeyta identifies as Chicana and is from Albuquerque's South Valley. She teaches earth and environmental science at the University of New Mexico-Gallup. The current focus of Abeyta's research is on improving access to STEM educational and research experiences by addressing social, economic, and technological barriers.



Tara Ashley is a human services major, with a focus on family and community education, with a specialized interest in substance abuse and counseling, at The University of New Mexico-Gallup. She is originally from Mexican Springs, N.M. She is Diné, born of the Tsi'naajinii (Black Streak Wood People) clan and born for the Todil'ozhi (Bitter Sweet Water) clan. Her maternal grandfather is of the Hoaghaahnii (One Who Walks Around) clan, and her paternal grandfather is of the Tl'ogi (Zia/Hairy Ones) clan. Ashley serves as a student assistant for UNM-Gallup Diversity, Equity & Inclusion. She is committed to fostering inclusive environments and providing professional support to those in need. Recognized as a 2025 Community Citizens Award recipient by the Ministers Fellowship of Albuquerque & Vicinity, Ashley is a dedicated advocate for local service. Her commitment is further demonstrated through her active volunteerism with the Gallup Inter-Tribal Indian Ceremonial, the Gallup Community Pantry, and various outreach initiatives supporting the unhoused population in Gallup.



Karla Baldonado identifies as Filipino. She was born and raised in Manila, Philippines and has been in the K-12 and higher education industries for over 15 years. She currently serves as the director of the Center for Career and Technical Education at UNM-Gallup. She is also a proud mother.



Markos Chavez, who was born and raised in Gallup, graduated from Gallup High School and went on to earn college degrees from UNM, UNM-Gallup, and the University of Arizona. He plays soccer and currently runs the adult soccer league in Gallup. He is a member of the Gallup Kiwanis Club and a KGLP board member. In his free time he also enjoys attending comic conventions around the state and collecting autographs of celebrities. Currently, he is the director of Zollinger Library at UNM-Gallup. He has a Bachelor of Arts in English, a Master of Arts in secondary education, and a master's in library and information science.



Dr. Sabrina Ezzell is the chancellor at The University of New Mexico-Gallup with over 15 years experience in higher education. She previously taught as a nursing professor and worked in the clinical setting for 30 years. Ezzell has a Doctorate in Education from Creighton University and a Master of Science in nursing with a specialization in public health from Northern Arizona University.

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Mona Frazier is African American and was raised in Kenner, Louisiana. She moved to Gallup, New Mexico, in December 1988. She is a UNM-Gallup alumni, former president of NAACP, caregiver, member of St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Gallup, and a community activist. Frazier is presently on the boards of Boys and Girls Club of Gallup, CrimeStoppers USA, a member of UNM-G Diversity Summit Planning Committee, and Hozho Recovery Center. Feeding the unhoused and community members with food insecurities.



Nia Harrington is a visiting lecturer with a Master of Arts in adult training and education who offers academic support to UNM-Gallup's Emergency Medical Services program. Additionally, they work with the Center for Career Technical Education to educate local high school students interested in health careers.



Joe Kee, associate professor at UNM-Gallup, brings forth his years of experience and knowledge of the Navajo culture, history, and language. He is originally from Steamboat, Arizona. Teaching the Navajo language, culture, and history through lessons, songs, and stories requires a fine balance and understanding of an ever-changing world within the Navajo cultural base. Kee's work as a movie translator with the Navajo-dubbed "Star Wars: Episode IV" in 2013, "Finding Nemo" in 2016, and "Fistful of Dollars" in 2019 enriches his work; revitalizing the language from the past, tying it to the present, and preserving and retaining it for the future generations.



Donna Lopez, project manager with UNM's Division for Change & Empowerment, is a native New Mexican from Albuquerque's South Valley and understands firsthand the challenges faced by students from historically marginalized and economically disadvantaged communities. These lived experiences fuel her commitment to advancing equity in education and advocating for underserved students. She holds bachelor's degrees in sociology and Spanish from The University of New Mexico and a master's degree in organizational management from the University of Phoenix.



LD Lovett is the director of Diversity, Cultural Understanding, Inclusive Excellence and Respect for UNM-Gallup. His work experience includes 10 years at UNM-Gallup and over 25 years at the community college, the university, the school district, and the City of Reno. He was honored to be named professor emeritus at Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE) Truckee Meadows Community College (TMCC). Lovett was honored by the Reno City Council with a proclamation declaring Dec. 12, 2012 as "L.D. Lovett Day." Lovett believes in the dignity of all individuals. He has served as a counselor, instructor, director of counseling, director of financial aid, director of affirmative action, director of multicultural diversification, and an assistant dean of diversity and division chair of business and applied technology, workforce, and adult basic education. He has developed, promoted, and hosted cultural programs, as well as three diversity summits and two workforce summits, diversity workshops, and diversity conferences for college campuses and the local business community. He has conducted focus groups and diversity audits, establishing 5- and 10-year goals, and monitoring results. Lovett's administrative experience demonstrates positive, effective interaction with the college administration, faculty, staff, students, and the local community. Lovett believes that knowledge, understanding, and attitude drive behavior.

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Dr. Aretha Matt identifies as Charcoal Streaked (Division of the Red Running into Water Clan) and is born for Towering House. She is a citizen of the Diné Nation. Matt teaches academic writing at The University of New Mexico-Gallup. She employs culturally relevant and responsive teaching methods in her writing courses. She writes poetry and short stories.



Dr. Daniel T. Primozić returned to teaching philosophy as a full professor at UNM-Gallup after coming to the branch campus as dean of instruction and completing that contract. He has taught and been a higher education leader for multiple colleges and universities across the nation. He has chosen to finish his lengthy career here at UNM-Gallup.



The Rev. Dr. Hilary Borbón Smith earned her doctorate in history from the University of Virginia. Her dissertation focused on communities and culture in Early Modern England, "Community and Belonging in Early Modern England: Life in the Trent River Valley, 1520 - 1640." Dr. Smith also holds: a master's in divinity from the Virginia Theological Seminary; a Master of Arts from the University of Leicester, UK, in English local history; and a Bachelor of Arts in history from the University of Richmond. She attended the University of Leicester on a Rotary International Ambassadorial Fellowship. As an undergraduate, Smith was in the history honors program at the University of Richmond, graduated summa cum laude, and was a member of a number of leadership groups and honor societies, including Phi Beta Kappa. Smith is an ordained Episcopal Priest and has served in parish ministry for 26 years. Smith began teaching history as an adjunct instructor at UNM-Gallup in January 2026.



John Zimmerman is the Dean of Instruction at UNM-Gallup. Before serving as the Dean, Professor Zimmerman previously served as the chair of the UNM-Gallup Fine Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences Division. He has worked at UNM-Gallup since 2006 as an assistant professor, an associate professor, and a professor of fine arts. He was also the director of UNM-Gallup's Ingham Chapman Gallery. Zimmerman holds a Bachelor of Fine Arts in ceramics from Bowling Green State University and a Master of Fine Arts with an emphasis in ceramics from San Jose State University. He has an extensive career as an internationally recognized ceramic sculptor, participating in numerous exhibitions across the U.S. and in China, and with work in multiple collections — both public and private.



The Art Student Collective (ASC) is a group of students on the UNM-Gallup campus who serve to educate the campus about art through fun activities. The officers are Catalina Tomlinson (president), John Nakai (vice president), Isabelle Silentman (treasurer), and Nola Smith (secretary). The group invited all students, faculty, and staff to draw with chalk images and text that celebrate diversity on the UNM-Gallup campus, particularly on the smooth, light gray cement slabs in front of the SSTC building near the bike racks. This event was held on Wednesday, April 15, and Thursday, April 16, during regular daylight hours. The ASC offers many thanks to the Student Government for providing chalk and to the ASC advisors, Dana Aldis and Kristi Wilson, for their support on this project.