

Media Advisory

What:

Tavis Smiley, in conversation with a multidisciplinary panel of local and national experts, will examine poverty in America, and its connection to the labor market and immigration.

Do undocumented immigrants “steal” jobs in Albuquerque and contribute to the sustained level of poverty in the city, state and country?

The panel will explore this notion, along with its expanded impact on education, health, homelessness, foreclosure, national security, the prison industrial complex and other issues that are deteriorating our nation. The panel will also examine how to empower those living in poverty to become their own best advocates through civic action.

Who:

- ❖ **Dr. Jozi De Leon:** *VP for Equity and Inclusion/Chief Diversity Officer, The University of New Mexico*
- ❖ **Gabriel R. Sanchez, Ph.D.:** *Executive Director, RWJF Center for Health Policy and Associate Professor of Political Science*
- ❖ **Dr. Veronica Garcia:** *Executive Director, New Mexico Voices for Children*
- ❖ **Antoinette Sedillo Lopez:** *Executive Director, Enlace Comunitario*
- ❖ **Yvette Kaufman-Bell:** *Executive Director, New Mexico Office of African American Affairs*

When:

Thursday, October 29, 2015

6:00pm: Press Opportunity

6:00pm - 8:30pm: Opportunity Marketplace

7:00pm - 8:30pm: Town Hall Discussion

Check-in begins at 6:00 p.m.

Where:

The University of New Mexico

Continuing Education Conference Center

1634 University Blvd NE

Albuquerque, NM 87102

Website: <http://bit.ly/1FXGNag>



Why:

According to Map the Impact, New Mexico today continues to attract a large immigrant population. Foreign born individuals make up one in ten of the state's residents and their numbers increased by more than 40 percent over the past decade.

New Mexico was hit hard in 2008 and 2009, the state lost 36,000 private-sector jobs. This past August, the unemployment rate rose to 6.7 percent, compared to the national unemployment rate of 5.1, which is down from last year. A report put out by [Governing](#) shows New Mexico at the very bottom for long-term unemployment. Nearly half of New Mexico's unemployed workers have been out of a job for 27 weeks or longer. While the long-term unemployed across the nation are securing employment or giving up after 28 weeks on average, New Mexicans are still searching for jobs many months later.

www.endingpoverty.net

Follow us on Twitter @TavisSmiley

