

## **Rosa Isela Cervantes**

Rosa Isela Cervantes is a proud Nuevo Mexicana and a dedicated higher education leader with more than 25 years of experience advancing student success, educational equity, and access for historically underserved communities. She earned both her Master of Arts in Family Studies and her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology and Spanish from the University of New Mexico.

As Director of El Centro de la Raza at the University of New Mexico, Rosa leads initiatives that foster student achievement, belonging, leadership development, and holistic support for students, with an emphasis on first-generation, Hispanic/Latino, migrant, and other historically underserved populations. She also serves as the University's Special Advisor to the President on Latina/o Affairs.

Rosa is the Principal Investigator for the federally funded High School Equivalency Program (HEP) and College Assistance Migrant Program (CAMP), which expand educational opportunities for students from migrant and seasonal farmworker backgrounds. In addition, she serves as Principal Investigator for the Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Campus Grant, leading collaborative campus efforts to prevent sexual assault, dating and domestic violence, and stalking while strengthening support services for survivors.

Throughout her career, Rosa has held numerous leadership roles in local, state, and national organizations, advocating for policies and practices that improve educational access, student persistence, and college completion. Her work is grounded in the belief that education is a powerful catalyst for individual, family, and community transformation.