



THE UNIVERSITY OF
NEW MEXICO

and the NATIONAL HISPANIC
INSTITUTE



2023

present the
DIONISIO "DENNIS" CHAVEZ
New Mexico LDZ

June 11-18, 2023



University of New Mexico, Albuquerque
State Capitol, Santa Fe

United States Senator
Dennis Chavez

LDZ Returns to New Mexico

Collaboration between the University of New Mexico and National Hispanic Institute started in the organization's early years. NHI launched youth leadership programs in Austin, Texas and debuted its first statewide initiative in 1983. An invitation from the University of New Mexico in 1988 changed the course of history.



LORENZO DE ZAVALA
YOUTH LEGISLATIVE SESSION

**"If it's meant to be,
It's up to ME!"**

The **Lorenzo de Zavala Youth Legislative Session** became the centerfold, nationally recognized program of the National Hispanic Institute. It quickly expanded across the country, coast to coast and internationally. Soon, it became known as simply "The LDZ Experience". To date, NHI counts 30,000 alum in 150 LDZ Sessions.

Through the special funding from the New Mexico Legislature, introduced by State Senator Michael Padilla, the University of New Mexico will partner with the National Hispanic Institute to host the 2023 Dionisio "Dennis" Chavez New Mexico LDZ. Over 150 top students will engage in a weeklong experience on the UNM campus and a Youth Legislative Session in Santa Fe.

The program will highlight the legacy of the late Dionisio "Dennis" Chavez who served in the U.S. House of Representatives from 1931-1935 and in the United States Senate from 1935-1962. Chavez was the first Hispanic person elected to a full term in the Senate and the first senator to be born in New Mexico.



New Mexico LDZ

What is the LDZ Experience?

Imagine convening 150 or more talented, ambitious, and aspiring students from throughout New Mexico. Instantaneously, the chatter, voices, and laughter create a special environment. Soon, you realize this place is different. People are sincerely interested in you. They seek out your opinions, encourage you to take the lead and soon, you are swept up in a role of significance. People recognize and applaud you because you are a leader!

Most young people dream of leadership occurring so easily. In reality, you have to be in the right environment, with like minded individuals and coaches who best know how to bring out your talent and launch your confidence.

NHI believes leadership is not a role, it is a trait of character, a desire to bring out the best in others and the ability to inspire innovation. When you move beyond personal recognition and applaud the success of others, you embrace the power of leadership.

The Honorable
New Mexico LDZ
Supreme Court Justices

In an 8-day residential experience, students follow NHI's signature community equity building approach to form communities, develop constituencies and craft strategies to leverage strength and capacity. The LDZ experience prompts personal transformation whereby a student feels competent, in control of their life direction, and valued in the eyes of others. They become inspired and committed to engage in adding equity and worth to their community.

The LDZ Experience leaves a deep and enduring impact on the hearts and minds of young people. Students feel inspired to make a difference in the lives of others. They feel proud to associate with a leadership class of highly motivated, intelligent and dedicated peers who will be known for their strong impact on society and especially the state of New Mexico!



United States Senator Dennis Chavez Scholars

In our 43 year journey of the National Hispanic Institute, we meet community people who perceive the world from a distinct point of view. They see the promise of human potential and investment, the value of culture and the benefits that arise from common community purpose. In the midst of these communities, there are young minds who become the artists of the future, relying on imagination to envision the future while protecting that which is considered vital and sacred to their identity. These are the community's future influencers and change makers who are called to have purpose in a constantly evolving world of tomorrow.

Thus, selecting and preserving the memory of New Mexico's former United States Senator, the Honorable Dionicio "Dennis Chavez as an appropriate badge of faith, courage and honor the young people selected to attend the 2023 New Mexico LDZ will constitute the first class of the U.S. Senator Dennis Chavez Scholars and charged with placing into practice the principles and fundamentals of community leadership in the State of New Mexico!



Application Qualifications & Requirements



[Click Here to Apply!](#)

DIONISIO "DENNIS" CHAVEZ
New Mexico LDZ
June 11-18, 2023
[NHI's Covid Policy](#)

Current 10th or 11th grade high school student

- . Enrolled in a college bound curriculum
- . 3.2 (88) grade point average (gpa)
- . Submit (upload) HS transcript/report card
- . Parental Release
- . Submit a list of HS clubs, activities, college interests
- . Proof of updated vaccinations included Covid
- . Include a \$25 nonrefundable application fee

Students meeting these qualifications will be designated as U.S. Senator Dennis Chavez Scholars and **participate at no cost**, other than transportation to and from UNM in Albuquerque plus a \$25 application fee.

The 2023 Dennis Chavez NMLDZ is limited to 150 students exclusively from the state of New Mexico. Early admissions deadline: **October 7th, 2022**, Regular admission deadline: **November 11th, 2022** and will conclude upon reached capacity about mid-March 2023.

The search for the 2023 class of Dennis Chavez Scholars will be filled on a first come, first serve basis. Applicants are encouraged to apply early. Once a cohort of statewide high school representation is achieved, additional students per school will be added.

ABOUT THE NATIONAL HISPANIC INSTITUTE

Ernesto Nieto and Gloria de León's intent for the National Hispanic Institute was to do more than host programs for high school youth. NHI was founded in 1979 to establish an institutional presence in Latino community life with a deliberate and organized strategy to prepare the next generation of leaders. It became an entity for young Latinos to envision their value beyond the attainment of college degrees and careers. In particular, NHI wanted students to assess their operating beliefs, behaviors and outlooks. Through organized and thoughtful experiences, students analyze choices and determine the assets and to leverage what is no longer useful to their aspirations. More importantly, they recognize the need to preserve and embrace as crucial, the spiritual and cultural understanding of themselves. The core mindset of recognizing and leveraging assets becomes the foundation for NHI's signature equity building approach to the development of community leaders. All leadership initiatives are framed within this context of NHI's mission and as the institution's community purpose and mandate for the past 43 years.



NATIONAL HISPANIC INSTITUTE
est. 1979

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Ernesto Nieto, President and Founder
Gloria de León, Co-Founder/ LDZ Architect

For additional information
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Partners

National Hispanic Institute (NHI), the University of New Mexico (UNM), and ENLACE New Mexico will partner with a variety of campus and community allies to advance this initiative. All of our ENLACE New Mexico regions based at various institutions of education will serve as key partners to attract students from across New Mexico to this special initiative.



HSC OFFICE FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY & INCLUSION | EL CENTRO DE LA RAZA



Special legislative funding for the 2023 Dionisio "Dennis" Chavez New Mexico LDZ is made possible by legislation introduced by **Senator Michael Padilla** who attended the New Mexico LDZ as a student from Los Lunas High School. At the 1988 LDZ program, he led the delegation as State Party Chair and was elected Lieutenant Governor.



Senator Michael Padilla

"Experiences gained by participating in this transformational program can have a lasting impact on you as an individual and on your family for generations. My participation in this life changing program still guides me today as a state senator and key policy maker in my state."

**Dionisio "Dennis" Chavez New Mexico
Lorenzo De Zavala Youth Legislative Session**

**Awards Ceremony
Saturday, June 18, 2022**

GOVERNOR

The Honorable Dominic Sandoval, Espanola NM

LT. GOVERNOR

The Honorable Keana Huerta,
Hurley NM

SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE

The Honorable Monet Vizcaino,
Albuquerque NM

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Albuquerque, NM

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LDZ JUNIOR COUNSELORS: Emma Levesque, San Antonio, TX, Randolph High School; Maddox Moshaver, El Paso, TX, Coronado High School

NHI SENIOR STAFF

Ernesto Nieto, President/Founder of the National Hispanic Institute; Gloria de Leon, NHI Co-Founder/LDZ Architect; Michelle Ramirez-Lopez, On-Site Director, Miquela Salazar, Senior Volunteer; **SECRETARY OF STATE:** Margaux Ochoa, McAllen, TX, Georgetown University