

*Diversity is Our Strength***FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

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**The Division for Equity and Inclusion Presents Visit from
2011 Lobo Reading Experience Author of
The Scalpel and the Silver Bear
Dr. Lori Arviso Alvord**

Albuquerque, NM – October 17, 2011 — The Division for Equity and Inclusion at the University of New Mexico is proud to present the author of the 2011 Lobo Reading Experience selection, *The Scalpel and the Silver Bear*, Dr. Lori Arviso Alvord at the University of New Mexico on Thursday, October 20, 2011.

“We are proud to bring Dr. Lori Arviso Alvord to the University of New Mexico,” said Dr. Jozi De Leon, VP for Equity and Inclusion. “Her work is inspiring and highlights the additive quality diverse perspectives bring to any situation and the unique possibilities they provide to conventional issues.”

Dr. Alvord will participate in a Traditional Healers Panel in conjunction with the Health Science Center’s Office of Diversity from 10:00am-11:30am in Domenici West 3010. The panel will discuss traditional medical practices, how traditional medicine is integrated into practices and traditional medicine practices. Panelists include Nicole Gonzales, CNM, Dr. Eliseo “Cheo” Torres, UNM, and Shannon Fleg, Native American Health Initiative. A question and answer session will follow.

Dr. Alvord will lead a discussion with a group of pre-selected students over lunch. All the students have read her book and are looking forward to discussing it with Dr. Alvord. This is a closed event.

Finally, Dr. Alvord will host the UNM Community from 5:30pm-7:00pm in SUB Ballroom A for An Evening with Dr. Lori Arviso Alvord for her discussion “*The Scalpel and the Silver Bear: A Native American Surgeon's Journey*.” This event is free and open to the public.

On Friday, October 21, Dr. Alvord will travel to Gallup, New Mexico to participate in activities at UNM-Gallup and in the Gallup area.

About Dr. Alvord:

Lori Arviso Alvord walks in two worlds. Raised on the Navajo reservation in Crownpoint, New Mexico, she is the daughter of a Navajo man and a white woman. Carrying this dichotomy into her education and career, she went from the reservation high school to Dartmouth College, and then found her path to Stanford University School of Medicine and a surgical residency in New Mexico. As the first Navajo woman surgeon, she learned to integrate the science-based world of medicine and the spirit-based Native American culture.

The 2011 Lobo Reading Experience selection is available now at the UNM Bookstore for the special price of \$12.80 with Lobo ID. Her books will be available for purchase and signing at each open event.

If you'd like more information about this year's Lobo Reading Experience, please contact Lorena Blanco-Silva at 505-277-1238 or e-mail at lblanco@unm.edu

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About the Division for Equity and Inclusion:

The University of New Mexico established the Division for Equity and Inclusion (DEI) in 2007 to strengthen the organizational capacity in order to serve UNM's diverse student body. OEI provides leadership for addressing institution-wide equity and inclusion and lends its support to student, staff and faculty efforts that build on the university's diversity initiatives. OEI supports system-wide diversity initiatives to enhance student recruitment and retention, academic excellence, employee diversity and a campus climate that embraces its diversity as an asset. In addition, the Office for Equity and Inclusion is the only university entity of its kind in a very diverse state, serving a diverse student population.