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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce**

## **Understands importance and Supports Gathering of Nations**

**May 5, 2016**

**Albuquerque, NM** – The Gathering of Nations is more than an event. As the world’s largest gathering of Native American and indigenous people, we’re ready to move to a venue with partners who share our goals and values and support our traditions and cultures.

While the University of New Mexico does not share our goals, the outpouring of respect and support we have received shows us that the City of Albuquerque and the State of New Mexico understand the importance of how we impact thousands of lives, tribes and the local economy.

The Gathering of Nations brings in 80,000 to 100,000 people annually and the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce (AHCC) has assisted the Gathering in its needs for 30 years.

“The AHCC has been working to support the Gathering for 30 years because of its cultural impact, its economic impact, its impact on the city, and the wonderful performances. We don’t want to see it leave the city,” said Alex O. Romero, the President/CEO of the AHCC. “This event would be cherished by any major city in the country and Albuquerque has been fortunate to host it for 33 years.”

“It really does bring people together, it helps our economy and it brings cultures together in a unique way,” said Steve Schroeder, the chairman of the AHCC board of directors. “We’re doing all we can to support the Gathering and ensure its success.”

Derek Mathews, the founder of the Gathering of Nations, said, “After contributing hundreds of millions of dollars to the Albuquerque economy, impacting millions of lives and generations and tribes from five continents, we’re appalled at the disrespect and disregard from the university. The Gathering of Nations and the Albuquerque Hispano Chamber of Commerce along with Mayor Richard J. Berry encourage the entire community to come out and support New Mexico’s largest cultural event as it has such an important cultural, economic and historic impact on Albuquerque, New Mexico, and native peoples from around the globe.”

We are optimistic and actively engaged in discussions with potential partners in Albuquerque to host the 2017 Gathering of Nations. We look forward to seeing you in our new venue next year.

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**AHCC Mission Statement:** *“The AHCC is organized to promote economic development, to enhance economic opportunities and to provide business and workforce education with an emphasis on the Hispanic and small business community in Albuquerque and New Mexico.”*

**AHCC WHY:** *To contribute to a greater cause.*