Eliseo "Cheo" Torres
Administrator
Vice president for Student Affairs

Dr. Torres has served as Vice President for Student Affairs at the University of New Mexico, a four-year state research university, based in Albuquerque, New Mexico, since January 2, 1996. Before he came to the University of New Mexico, Dr. Torres served as Vice President for External Affairs at Texas A&M University-Kingsville. He also taught in the Bilingual Doctoral Program at Texas A&M University- Kingsville. He has served as Interim President, Vice President for Student Affairs and Special Services, Director of the University’s Center for Continuing Education, and also as Assistant to the President. For two years preceding his appointment to the Texas A&M University-Kingsville staff, he was with the Texas Education Agency in Austin.

Among other initiatives, Dr. Torres has been involved in or been elected as an advisor to Mexican President, Felipe Calderon for improving lives of immigrants in the United States.

He also teaches the Traditional Medicine Without Borders: Curanderismo in the Southwest and Mexico class during the summer semester at UNM. This popular class is cross-listed with four departments and brings practicing Mexican healers to the UNM Campus.

He initiated a project more than ten years ago with the Office of Special Programs at the University of New Mexico in which students participate in work and study programs to allow them attend school and earn wages at the same time. The most prominent of these takes place in partnership with L.A. Works of Los Angeles County, in which dozens of inner city students are brought each year to the University of New Mexico for residential work-study programs.

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Dr. Torres received his doctorate in Education from Texas A&M University in Kingsville in 1980. His academic interests include studying, teaching and writing books about the Mexican-American tradition of curanderismo, the folk healing culture of the Southwest and Latin America. He lives in Albuquerque with his wife, Nieves, and has a son, Kiko, and a daughter, Sandra.