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El Noticiero

Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

Annual Institute and Legislative Activities Held in Santa Fe

The New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education (NMABE) in cooperation with the Bilingual Multicultural Education Bureau (BMEB) of the PED held its annual Bilingual Educators' Institute and Bilingual Education Day at the Legislature on January 23-24, 2006.

The Institute's focus this year was on assessment as it pertains to English language learners. Speakers included Dr. Chris Sims of the University of New Mexico and Dr. Don Watson, Asst. Secretary for Assessment and Accountability of the PED. Dr. Gladys Herrera Gurulé and staff of the BMEB opened the meeting with updates on:

- The hiring of Mexican, Puerto Rican and Spanish teachers to meet the ever-present need for teachers in bilingual education programs across the state;
- Title III Bilingual Education Awards;

- The annual report to the Legislative Finance Committee and Legislative Education Study Committee on the current status of Bilingual Education;

- Potential teacher exchange programs with Nuevo León, México; and

- Schools with bilingual education programs that have met AYP and gotten out of corrective action.

Native American Assessment Issues

Dr. Sims updated the group on the work of the statewide Native American task force for proficiency assessment in the native languages. That group is gathering information on the range of teaching practices presently employed and the views of tribal language teachers about the goals for language teaching. The task force will identify principles for language assessment methods reflective of the goals

of the tribes in the major language groups of the state.

She then examined some of the issues and considerations of assessment practices as they relate to American Indian students learning tribal heritage languages. Language shift and erosion among the tribal languages of New Mexico is a grave concern, fostering a critical need to produce new generations of speakers within the native communities. She explained the responses of the tribes regarding these needs, and contrasted the functions of language in the schools versus those within the tribal communities. Implications for assessment were most apparent.

Dr. Don Watson, Asst. Secretary for Assessment and Accountability provided a status report on the New Mexico English Language Proficiency Assessment (NMELPA). While the test is not ready, he shared anticipated timelines for test adminis-

trator training dates (March, 2006) and test administration before the end of the current school year, probably in May. The districts participating in the Institute were willing to meet these federal and state mandates but expressed their worries about the difficult timelines proposed.

Legislative Reception

Students from the *Mariachi Maravilloso* of the Mesa Vista School District provided entertainment for the legislative reception held the evening of January 23, 2006 at the Hotel Santa Fe. David Rogers, Executive Director of Dual Language Education of New Mexico gave a short talk on preliminary findings from two studies involving students in dual language immersion programs in New Mexico.

Bilingual Education Day at the Legislature

January 24th was NMABE's annual Bilingual Education Day

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NMABE Conference Features Dr. Josie Tinajero

Dr. Josie Tinajero, Dean of the College of Education at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) will deliver the keynote address at the second general session of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education's 34th annual conference at the Embassy Suites in Albuquerque, NM.

Dr. Tinajero is a leading scholar, educator and advocate

on issues of equity and excellence for culturally and linguistically diverse children and families. She has founded programs throughout the Southwest that help new edu-



cators develop the needed skills and knowledge to educate our increasingly diverse student population. A noted spokesperson for culturally relevant pedagogy in the curriculum, she has been an invited keynote speaker at numerous international, na-

tional and state conferences on bilingual education and on issues of language, equity, and education.

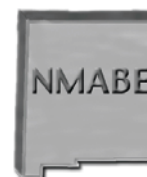
Tinajero served an unprecedented four terms as President of NABE—the National Association for Bilingual Education (1997-2000 and 2002-03) and continues to serve on the board. She was also President of TABE—

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Bilingual Education School News

Truman Middle School (APS) 6th graders invited parents to their 3rd Open House on Thursday and Friday, Feb 9 and 10. The parents received progress reports and saw their children's dual language classrooms.....**Columbus Elementary School** (Deming Public Schools) will implement a new arrival center in Grades 3-6 next year.....**Santa Teresa High School** (Gadsden Independent School District) is doing a great job with parental involvement, holding monthly meetings for ESL students and parents. Ms. Genevieve Chaves, Assistant Principal, spearheads these meetings. Additionally, the district's Parent Advisory Council has grown in membership and is now training not only parents with bilingual student, but all parents interested in learning. Furthermore, it provides professional development for bilingual teachers who serve bilingual students in the balanced literacy component of the transitional classroom in grades 3-6.....The **Laguna Acoma High School** (Grants Cibola County Schools) has a new initiative funded by the Indian Education Department using media as a way to encourage Native language learning and speaking in the Acoma-Keres Immersion classes.....The **Chama Valley Schools** is preparing for the future of bilingual education by having instructional assistants take courses to become bilingually endorsed teachers. The district is also in the process of adopting new Spanish materials.....The **Albuquerque Public Schools** has standardized their bilingual seal program for 2006-2007 which will be offered to students in six high schools. This program sets rigorous criteria for students taking coursework and showing competence in Spanish and English.....The **Las Cruces Public Schools** has initiated 'mandatory' training of all personnel this year to comply with 6.32.2.15 – Professional Development – of the *Bilingual Multicultural Education Act*. The district provides 3 options: (1) a face-to-face training by the district's Bilingual Multicultural staff, (2) a web/CT class, or (3) a PowerPoint presentation and materials given to school administrators so that they may do the training..... **Jemez Mountain's** Professional Development Plan requires teachers to get an endorsement in TESOL and Bilingual Education. The district supports classes via federal program funds.....The **New Mexico Highlands University** Spanish Language Immersion Institute will be held June 4-11, 2006 This provides an intensive review of Spanish in preparation for the required *Prueba* exam. For more information, contact Dr. Loretta Salazar, lsalazar@nmhu.edu or 505-454-3535.....In the Española Schools, **Hernandez Elementary** has received the Annual Yearly Progress AYP award and **Chimayo Elementary** is being recognized in Washington, DC as one of the "Schools on the Move." Indian Education has now become a part of the Bilingual Education department in the district.....**Questa** has implemented a tutorial program in the Junior/

Senior high called Content Mastery Class which has reduced the numbers of failing students.....During the first semester of the school year, the **Farmington Municipal Schools** completed a needs assessment of district ESL programs. This included visits to all schools and classrooms, with assistance from Dr. Linda Simmons (Ft Lewis College) The report on ESL findings was given to all administrators. The goal for the second semester is to develop an ESL curriculum for K-12 tied to NM Standards and Benchmarks with objectives tied to the district's Educational Plan for Students Success The district's Spanish Language Curriculum guide was approved at the FMS School Board. Lynda Valencia, Spanish Facilitator for the bilingual programs presented a "fun" lesson entirely in Spanish, and school board members had to respond in Spanish. Teaching techniques used were: visuals (pictures), manipulatives (word spell), and total physical response.....The Family Leadership Institute has been implemented to help Hispanic families who have children enrolled in the **Clovis** schools. At **La Casita Elementary**, parents are active in the Family Leadership Institute and are taking an assertive stand in becoming more involved. They voice the positive academic outcomes their child/children are gaining from participating in a Dual-Language program. The after-school program targets the academic challenges the students face and promotes the fine arts through *folklorico* dance and guitar. The Title I ESL Program Specialist position is designed to help teachers who have ELL students who do not participate in the bilingual education program.....The **Portales** schools have doubled the number of bilingual services to students this year. This is year two of the 50-50 model programs in grades K-1. Next year the cohort group will move to 2nd grade. The program is open for mono-English and mono-Spanish students who wish to acquire a second language in a 50-50 setting. The 90-10 model is also a choice for parents and students. Mr. Rick Segovia, Principal of **Lindsay Elementary** is promoting the Fine Arts in its extended day program offering beginning guitar. This program is designed to promote culture, critical thinking, the Spanish language, and an appreciation of music. **Portales High School** is now offering, two classes designed for advanced Spanish native speakers, taught by Mrs. Alfreda Sigala. The Hispanic subgroups in all grade levels met AYP for the 2005-2006 school year. Summer professional development in SIOP research based strategies will be on June 26-30, 2006 for Cohort group (2) two. All certified employees of PMSD will eventually receive the training provided by Dr. Socorro Herrera from the University of Kansas. The district also provides funds to teachers for TESOL and BLED courses through Eastern New Mexico University.



El Noticiero

El Noticiero is published quarterly with monthly inserts by *Language Magazine* and provides information on current affairs concerning the education of language minority persons in New Mexico and the United States.

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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

No. 30:1, Fall, 2005: Oct.
(Pre-conference issue)
No. 30:2, Winter, 2006: January
(Board News, Bilingual Education Day,
Call to Action)
No. 30:3 Spring, 2006: April
(Conference Edition)
No. 30:4 Summer, 2006: August
(Summer Activities, Institutes)

Inserts offer monthly news

LESC Writes to USDE Secretary Spellings

The Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) is a bipartisan, bicameral standing committee of the New Mexico Legislature that studies funding and other issues pertinent to public education. On August 8, 2005 the LESG submitted a letter urging Secretary Spellings to consider "removing impediments" faced by the state in implementing the *No Child Left Behind Act of 2001*.

The letter, published in the 2006 LESG Report to the Second Session of the Forty-Seventh Legislature, outlines "specific federal regulatory and statutory requirements that have proven problematic to our school reform efforts". It includes a number of areas of concern. Of interest to bilingual educators in New

Mexico is the attention the LESG gave to English language learners. The letter states:

"Requirements regarding bilingual education in the *New Mexico Constitution* and the state *Bilingual Multicultural Education Act* potentially conflict with NCLB mandates regarding assessment of English-language learners, as well as the three-year time frame for achieving English language proficiency. The Spanish language is rooted in four centuries of New Mexico history, and Article VII, Section 8 of our Constitution reflects the intention that, through its educational system, New Mexico shall remain a bilingual state. Statute confirms this commitment and provides a mechanism for maintaining a bilingual, bicultural population. In the case of non-Spanish speaking English-language learners, including speakers of American Indian languages, the standardized assessments or alternative assessment protocols based on New Mexico academic standards required by NCLB do not yet exist; therefore, those students are at a distinct disadvantage. We are concerned, also that the US Department of Education has heretofore ignored solid research showing that achieving second language proficiency requires at least seven years, not three. We are particularly concerned that dual language immersion programs now in place in several New Mexico schools may be threatened by the three-year limit, despite research indicating that such programs are notably effective in producing long-term academic success for students."

Dual Language Middle Charter School

La Academia Dolores Huerta in Las Cruces New Mexico, a charter dual language middle school in New Mexico is now in its second year of operation. The entire curriculum is delivered in English one day and in Spanish the next and all instructional materials are in both languages. It consists of science, math, language arts, social studies, careers, PE, reading, and a fine arts component that offers *mariachi*, piano, guitar, *conjunto norteño*, and *ballet folklórico*. Of the 121 students at the school some speak only English, some only Spanish, and 50 are bilingual in both languages. There are five bilingual education/TESOL endorsed teachers and all employees are bilingual. You may find out more about the school at their website, www.academianm.org.

Continued from page 1 Legislative Activities

at the State Capitol. This activity brings together bilingual educators from across the state to share information about their programs with their local legislators. Student entertainment, held during the lunch hour in the Capitol rotunda, featured Señora Montoya's Spanish Dance and the Lili Mace's Navajo Dancers from the Cuba Independent Schools and also the Zuni Pueblo School District Dance Group.

Special Recognition by Secretary García

Secretary of Education Veronica García recognized ten schools in New Mexico offering Title III bilingual education programs that are showing effectiveness in:

- Meeting Annual Measurable Achievement Objectives (AMAOs)
- Making Academic Yearly Progress (AYP)
- Demonstrating Student Progress with Short-cycle Assessment
- Using Qualitative Measures

School principals, teachers, bilingual coordinators and students who were present for the recognition ceremony received a plaque and \$2,000.

District	School(s)
Albuq.	Dolores Gonzales La Mesa Longfellow
Clovis	La Casita
Deming	Martin Deming Middle
Hobbs	Taylor Jefferson
Las Cruces	McArthur
Lovington	Llano

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Josie Tinajero

Texas Association for Bilingual Education.

Among her many credits and awards, Dr. Tinajero was named one of 80 Most Influential Hispanics in the U. S. by U. S. Hispanic Business Magazine and the Outstanding U.S. Bilingual Educator by the Education Ministry of Spain. In 2002 she was named the Texas Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for the Advancement and Support of Education. She also received the 2002 Multicultural Educator Award from the National Association for Multicultural Education.

She is the author of several comprehensive, multi-component reading/language arts and ESL programs, including *Spotlight on Literacy*; *McGraw-Hill Reading*, *Cuentamundos*, *Campanitas de Oro* all published by Macmillan/McGraw-Hill; *Into*

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Scholarships Available

The Embassy of Spain's Education Office has announced scholarships for teachers and administrators interested in attending a university summer course of study in Spain. It will be carried out for three weeks in July, and includes tuition, room and board. The Spanish Resource Center in Albuquerque also offers \$500 to help as a travel aid to 25 New Mexican teachers or administrators that apply. You can apply on line at: www.sgci.mec.es/usa/cursos. For more information, you can contact the Spanish Resource Center at: language.assistant@state.nm.us and receive a free brochure.

Courses offered:

- Lengua y Culturas Españolas*/Spanish Language and Cultures
- Enseñanza del Español a Hispanohablantes*/Teaching Spanish for Heritage Learners
- Metodología para la Enseñanza del Español*/Methodology for the teaching of Spanish
- Literatura Infantil*/ Children's Literature
- Cursos para Aprender Español*/ Courses to Learn Spanish
- Master en Lengua y Cultura Española*/Master's Degree in Spanish Language and Culture

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English! (2001); High Point (2002); and Avenues published by Hampton-Brown Books. Her co-edited books, Educating Latino Students, The Power of Two Languages, Literacy Assessment of Second Language Learners, and Teaching all the Children are used by universities throughout the United States.



NMABE President Rosalinda Altamirano addresses audience for Bilingual Education Day at the State Capitol.