



El Noticiero

Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

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July, 2005

Secretary Veronica García Welcomes NMABE Members

Secretary Veronica García opened the NMABE conference in April with encouraging words about her goals for bilingual education in New Mexico. She emphasized the importance of recognizing the value of bilingual education and maintaining the first language as important links to family and other community members. "New Mexico's rich cultural heritage is reflected in the many languages we speak and I'm proud that our school system offers parents the opportunity to continue their linguistic traditions in bilingual schools." She was unable to keep her native Spanish because her parents chose to educate her in English. "There was no bilingual education when I went to school." Secretary García added.

She called attention to the research

base that supports positive academic outcomes of well designed and well implemented bilingual education programs. "In order to close the achievement gap we must continue to support and expand our bilingual educational offerings. Too many children have abandoned the languages spoken by their families for generations when they entered the public school system."

She also reinforced the importance of accountability for program effectiveness and fiscal oversight. "Accountability requires a team effort that includes all stakeholders." Accountability reports will be presented annually to the Legislature as required by law. The Bilingual & Multicultural Education Bureau made its first report to the Legislative Education Study

Committee in December.

"In this report, we presented baseline data on both student performance and tracking of Bilingual Education program funds. Accountability reports will be presented annually to the Legislature as required by the law."

After discussing the successes seen in bilingual programs in New Mexico, Secretary García concluded, "The present and the future of educating bilingual students strongly depend on how much we value, appreciate and use our languages from generation through generation."

NMABE appreciates our Secretary's words. Quality in the implementation of our programs is everybody's job.

Summer Immersion Institutes Continue

Every summer, teachers working on their endorsement in Bilingual Education can attend summer immersion institutes at New Mexico universities in preparation for the Spanish language proficiency exam, *Prueba*. The institutes are the result of legislation sponsored by former Representative J. Paul Taylor. Four universities offer the institutes: New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU), Eastern New Mexico University (ENMU), the University of New Mexico (UNM) and New Mexico State University (NMSU).

In addition to this, **Western New Mexico University** will offer three total

immersion classes in Nuevo Casas Grandes, Mexico this summer. The three-week classes will begin on July 1 and end July 23, 2005. Each class will be a three-credit class. The classes are Spanish Immersion, Multicultural Education in Mexico, and Cultural Studies through Clay by Nicolas Quesada. For more information call Mrs. Tolar at (505) 538-6415, or contact her at tolart@wnmu.edu.

New Mexico State University will be sponsoring its Spanish Language Immersion Institute for classroom teachers in

bilingual education settings in Chihuahua City, Mexico during the week of July 17-25. The focus of the institute will be on the use of Spanish in authentic settings, both in the classroom and in the broader community of Chihuahua. In addition, instruction will take a particular emphasis on *Prueba*. Three credit hours of university credit through NMSU will be granted at the completion of the institute. Please contact María Mercado at (505) 646-1282 email: mariamm@nmsu.edu or Grace Martínez at (505) 646-2290 email: gmartine@nmsu.edu for further information.

NMABE Welcomes '05-'06 Board

On June 30, 2005 outgoing board members welcomed NMABE's new Board of Directors at its annual leadership session held at the end of each fiscal year. The '04-'05 board members shared the expertise they gained during year to help new board members create its fabric of goals and activities for NMABE membership for the '05 - '06 school year.

Gabriel Baca of the Title I office of the PED turned the gavel over to **Rosalinda Carreón Altamirano**, bilingual education coordinator with the Las Cruces Public Schools. Rosalinda served as President Elect last year and is NMABE's incoming President. Much appreciation goes out to Gabriel who did such a great job leading the organization this year.

Dr. Julia Rosa López Emslie, who retired from ENMU last year, steps in as President Elect. This position requires a three-year commitment to the NMABE board, giving continuity in meeting the organization's goals.

Dr. Loretta Salazar, former professor of bilingual education at NMHU, will be NMABE's new vice president.

Dr. Roy Howard of WNMU continues as Secretary, a multifaceted position he has handled so well over the years serving as the Editor in Chief of the *Noticiero* and also as NMABE's webmaster.

NMABE thanks **Ricardo Sánchez** of the Bloomfield schools for the work he has done over the past few years as Treasurer

of the association. **Ana Lee Maestas** of Albuquerque will serve as our new Treasurer.

In the Parent Representative position, NMABE welcomes its new board member, **Marlene Parra Padrón**, who is the Director of Bilingual Education for the Deming Public Schools.

Also new to the board for '05-'06 is **Wilfred Eriacho**, retired director of bilingual education from the Zuni Public Schools. Wilfred will serve as our new Native American Representative. Many thanks go to **Tina Deschenie** who served in this position with great dedication and commitment this past year and prior to that as NMABE's vice president. Thanks also go to **Cecilia Silentman Carr** from Central Consolidated Schools who served as Member at Large this year and previously held the Native American Rep position. Both Tina and Cecilia single handedly put on the Native American Literacy Festival and the very first NMABE Pow Wow for this year's conference.

NMABE has three affiliates: The Northern Consortium for Bilingual Education, the Southern NM Consortium for Bilingual/Multicultural Education and Dual Language Education of New Mexico. Each affiliate's representative to NMABE, (**Dr. Carlos Abeyta** of the Bernalillo Schools, **Dr. Luis "Nacho" Quiñones** of the charter school, Academia de Idiomas y Cultura in Las Cruces and **Teresa Durán** of APS, respectively) will continue to represent the views and issues of each affiliate well as they have in the past.

Last but certainly not least, NMABE continues to appreciate the critical contributions that **Dr. Gladys Herrera Gurulé**, our state Director of Bilingual Education, makes to the decisions and activities of the association.

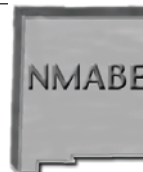
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Eastern New Mexico University held its institute from June 5th to June 12th. There were 10 participants this year: a 1st grade teacher from Belén, a 4th grade teacher from Roswell, a high school Spanish teacher from Dexter, a Special Ed. teacher from Clovis, a bilingual Instructional Assistant from Carlsbad, and five pre-service teachers still seeking certification.

The students received six credit hours in the eight days of the workshop, three in Spanish and three in Bilingual Education. On

the 13th, they took the exam. "Teachers felt well prepared for the exam and expressed that they had learned a tremendous amount during the eight days," said Geni Flores, Director of the Institute.

"As well as learning Spanish grammar and accent placement, etc., our students also learned some *Baile Foclorico*, they had a virtual tour of all Spanish speaking countries, they learned a lot about Venezuela, *el Movimiento Chicano*, and they were well entertained by a magician/ventriloquist. It was a busy but enjoyable week."



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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2005 - 2006 NMABE BOARD

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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

No. 29:1, Fall, 2004: Oct.

(Pre-conference issue)

No. 29:2, Winter, 2005: January

(Board News, Bilingual Education Day,
Call to Action)

No. 29:3 Spring, 2005: April

(Conference Edition)

No. 29:4 Summer, 2005: August

(Summer Activities, Institutes)

Inserts provided for interim monthly news