



# El Noticiero

Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

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## Bilingual School in Velarde Wins Federal Blue Ribbon Award

On Sept. 9, 2008, US Secretary of Education Margaret Spellings named Velarde Elementary School as one of 320 No Child Left Behind-Blue Ribbon Schools. This award distinguishes and honors schools for helping students achieve at very high levels and for making significant progress in closing the achievement gap. Velarde Elementary is only one of two schools in the State of New Mexico to achieve this award!

According to Velarde Principal Roberto Archuleta, 48.8 % of his school's students scored Proficient or better in Math and 58.5% scored Proficient or better in Reading. The Sixth Grade class scored 80% proficient in Math and 60% proficient in Reading. One Fourth Grade class scored 53.3% in Math and 80% in Reading.

According to the Albuquerque Jour-

nal North's article ("Velarde Elementary Is in the Running for Achievement Award," August 11, 2008, by Journal Staff Writer Polly Summar), Velarde joins Albuquerque's Georgia O'Keeffe Elementary School, located in the affluent Northeast Heights, in receiving this prestigious recognition. Velarde's 174 students are 95% Hispanic, 1 percent Black, 1 percent American Indian and 3 percent White. Seventy percent of students participate in the free lunch program. This demography contrasts substantially with the 600-student population in the Albuquerque school which has less than 40 percent disadvantaged students, according to the Santa Fe New Mexican ("Velarde School Earns Federal Recognition," Sept. 21, 2009, article by John Sena)



NM Secretary of Education Veronica Garcia presents NCLB Blue Ribbon Award to Principal Roberto Archuleta.

"Many schools have made AYP," said Veronica García, Secretary of the NM Public Education Department, (Summar). "What I find interesting is that Velarde is demographically so different. ... But if schools pay attention and teach the standards, they will do well and the kids will be competitive any-

Continued on page 2

## NMABE Institute Features Best Practices for ELLs

NMABE will hold its annual Bilingual Educators' Institute and Bilingual Education Day at the New Mexico Legislature on January 29 - 30, 2009 in Santa Fe, NM. The Institute will be held at the Hotel Santa Fe, 1501 Paseo de Peralta. (Located at the intersection of Cerrillos and Paseo de Peralta) The hotel offers free shuttle service to the Capitol, just a few short blocks away. These activities are co-sponsored by the Bilingual Multicultural Education Bureau of the New Mexico Public Education Department

### Bilingual Educators' Institute: Best Practices for English Language Learners

Much research is available on how to best instruct students who are underachieving in the curriculum. English language learners (ELL's) are part of this group; some need a bit of special language and content support, others need much more.

The difficulty lies in structuring the curriculum such that all students can benefit.

On January 29, the Institute will address teaching strategies for Hispanic and Native American ELL students. This session, however, will benefit ALL TEACHERS who have ELL students in their classrooms, -- elementary, middle, secondary -- and Title I, and Special Education teachers.

The presenters will use the New Mexico Public Education Department's (NMPED) new Response to Intervention Manual, published by the NMPED and called the Student Assistance Team and the Three-Tier Model of Student Intervention (SAT Manual), as the lens to present the best practices. English language learners need to be successful in Tier 1 instruction; to do so means that all teachers must know and use the teaching strategies that research has shown works

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 1, Blue Ribbon

where in the country."

Velarde Elementary School uses the New Mexico Content Standards, Benchmarks and Performance Standards Reference Guide. Principal Archuleta believes this practice as well as a blend of "strong leadership, teachers, community support and students who know what is expected of them" was key to their success. He went on to say, wagging the book, "This is what we do. The standards and benchmarks are a guide,



Secretary Garcia and Principal Archuleta join happy Velarde Elementary students.

and they make up a good education for a kid. There's no special secret. What you see all over my office is testing, testing, testing." He also said Velarde Elementary "is part of a school district (Española Public Schools) that expects this kind of success from all of its schools."

Archuleta, who was principal 15 years ago, rejoined the school as a teacher and then became principal again last year. He commented, "We didn't do this today or last week...I inherited this. There was an aura of respect here, an inherent respect for elders, teachers and other students. It was not questioned. I did everything within my power to emulate and keep that. It was here before I came, so I can't say I brought it." (Summar)

The Journal article also quotes him valuing the merit of small schools. Velarde generally has one class per

grade. "In this area, all the small schools made AYP," Archuleta said. "Alcalde, Velarde, Dixon. We fight the PSCOC (Public School Capital Outlay Council). They have that philosophy that newer is better. They have made efforts to combine Velarde and Alcalde, and parents have fought it. ...I think the test scores prove the value of a small school. We've made AYP three out of the last four years."

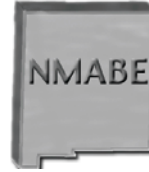
Archuleta, from Española, is proud of the Spanish language he speaks and recognizes why it's so important to retain and continue to develop it. Since language and culture go hand in hand, this maintains the state's cultural heritage. In the Journal article, he went on to say, "This community was here before the Pilgrims were here." He included this in his application for the Blue Ribbon awards. "These kids have a rich cultural and historical background. It needs to be tapped into even more, in a positive light. These kids know who they are, where they come from."

All the students at Velarde Elementary are in the Bilingual Education program, receiving one hour of Spanish language arts instruction daily. Seventy-five percent of the teachers have their endorsement in Bilingual Education and English as a Second Language (ESL) instruction. Archuleta indicates every teacher is bilingual. "We see having a second language as a something to be valued — we don't see it as a negative."

The school has also reduced the number of ELL students as a result of the instructional program provided. Two years ago, the school had identified 66 ELLs; this year they had 24.

Not only are the students doing well but of the 20 that graduated to Carlos F. Vigil Middle School this year, Archuleta said, "we have four who scored Advanced (on the NCLB ranking), nine who scored Proficient in all areas, and

Continued on page 4



## El Noticiero

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### PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

**No. 33:1 Fall, 2008: October**  
(Pre-Conference issue)

**No. 33:2 Winter, 2009: January**  
(Board News, Bilingual Education Day,  
Call to Action)

**No. 33:3 Spring, 2009: April**  
(Conference Edition)

**No. 33:4 Summer, 2009: July**  
(Summer Activities, Institutes)

Monthly Inserts/Wraps in Language Magazine

## DLENM Presents a New Clearinghouse for Dual Language Education!

Dual Language Education of New Mexico is a non-profit organization dedicated to the development, implementation and support of quality dual language programs. If you are a teacher, administrator, parent or community member committed to dual language education or curious to learn more, you'll want to visit Dual Language Education of New Mexico's new Clearinghouse for information, resources and networking at [www.dlenm.org](http://www.dlenm.org).

Through the Clearinghouse, DLeNM is dedicated to providing both existing and newly developed resources in one easy-to-access location. You can explore the Clearinghouse resources at the website ([www.dlenm.org](http://www.dlenm.org)) or stop by the office at 2501 Yale Blvd. SE in Albuquerque. This is the place to go for the support you need in understanding, designing and implementing strong dual language education programs.

As part of the Clearinghouse, DLeNM will unveil a professional membership at La Cosecha this fall that will offer the following benefits and resources:

- a year's subscription (in hard copy) to our quarterly newsletter, *Soleado*—*Promising Practices from the Field*,

where you'll find articles on program design, instruction and assessment, family and community, advocacy/political updates and more from teachers, researchers, community activists and students;

- access to monographs and video-taped or web-based conferences with authors for a more in-depth look at topics in *Soleado*, the newsletter described above;
- additional publications that focus on program development, biliteracy instruction and assessment, cross-cultural competency, language and literacy development through content instruction, family/community connections, etc.;
- instructional videos providing teachers and administrators the opportunity to share promising practices through demonstration (Spring 2009);
- networking opportunities through targeted e-mail updates, blogs, tele- or video-conferencing, etc., with dual language colleagues throughout the country (Spring 2009);
- NMABE membership—DLeNM's professional membership also enrolls you as a member of the New Mexico

Association for Bilingual Education, which provides you with a yearly subscription to *Language Magazine*, as well as NMABE's monthly newsletter, *El Noticiero* and member registration rates for its premier state conference--Sept. 24-26, 2009 at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Albuquerque; and

- discount on DLeNM program and professional development facilitation and consultation.

The Clearinghouse resources will continue to grow... we invite you to come grow with us and discover the benefits of DLeNM's professional membership. Look for our first newsletter in Fall 2008—complimentary copies will be available at La Cosecha, November 12-15. We also look forward to hearing from you about the resources you would find most useful in your particular dual language role.

For more information about Dual Language Education of New Mexico, the Clearinghouse, or the new professional membership opportunity, please contact us at 505-243-0648 or visit our website at [www.dlenm.org](http://www.dlenm.org).

### Continued from page 1, Institute

best for ELL students. The uniform and consistent used of these strategies benefits all students, but is crucial for ELLs. Using the SAT manual as a guide, but going beyond its contents, the presenters will elaborate on the best strategies and interventions for English language learners.

### Bilingual Education Day at the State Legislature

Bilingual Education Day at the State Legislature will be held on January 30, 2009. This annual event helps inform legislators and the general public about Bilingual Education programs in New Mexico. It is also gives bilingual educators the opportunity to get to know and update their legislators about the local programs and their successes. Because it's important that your legislator be made aware of the wonderful bilingual instruc-

tion provided to students in his/her district, NMABE encourages you to invite your legislator to come to your school and see your program.

NMABE also encourages school districts to set up displays at the Capitol that highlight all the good work students are doing in Bilingual Education throughout the state. This year, we have been able to secure **24 table spaces** in the East and West wings of the Rotunda. Plan on being there!

Legislative activities will include student entertainment during the noon hour in the Rotunda of the State Capitol Building. After that, a press conference will inform the media of the No Child Left Behind Title III Incentive Awards. These awards are given to schools that have been successful in teaching ELL students through Bilingual Education and ESL approaches. The Public Education

Department will present the awards to school, parent and district representatives from 1:00 to 2:00 pm. Afterwards, NMABE and the Bilingual Multicultural Education Bureau of the NMPED will host a special luncheon for parents, students and principals of these schools.

### Institute and Legislative Day Details

NMABE has reserved a number of rooms at the Hotel Santa Fe for the evenings of January 28 and 29. The special rates will be \$75 for a Junior Suite and \$60 for a Double. **Reservations must be made on or before January 1 to get the special rate.**

**DO IT TODAY TO ENSURE YOU HAVE A GUARANTEED ROOM AT THIS SPECIAL RATE.**

Registration forms for the Institute, student entertainment and district displays at the Capitol Rotunda can be found at <http://www.nmabe.net>.



## La Cosecha 2008

13th Annual Dual Language Conference  
"De la comunidad al salón de clases"

November 12-15, 2008

At the new Santa Fe Convention Center  
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Register Online at <http://lacosecha.dlenm.org/register>

### Invited Speakers

Kathy Escamilla  
Virginia Collier/Wayne Thomas  
Janet Zadina  
Stanley A. Lucero  
Barbara Flores  
Nancy Commins  
Natalie Olague  
Margarita Calderón  
Rosa Molina  
José Luis Orozco  
Paul Martinez  
Regional Dual Language Teachers  
And many more...

### Special Guest for Conference Dance



**Los Lobos**

Registration is due by November 3, 2008

## Spanish Immersion Institute

The one-week total Spanish immersion preparation for "Prueba." at NMHU-Las Vegas will take place June 21-28, 2009. For further information contact Loretta Salazar at 505-454-3535 ([lsalazar@nmhu.edu](mailto:lsalazar@nmhu.edu)) or Jayni Flores at 505-454-3146 ([ljflores@nmhu.edu](mailto:ljflores@nmhu.edu)).

### Continued from page 2

the rest were Proficient in some areas and nearing Proficient in others. That's awesome."

NMABE extends its congratulations to the students, parents, teachers, district administrators and to Principal Archuleta for a job well done!

## 37<sup>th</sup> Annual NMABE

State Bilingual Multicultural Education Conference



# Bilingual Multicultural Education: Pathway to Success

Embassy Suites Hotel---September 24-26, 2009---Albuquerque, NM