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El Noticiero

Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

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Gabriel Baca
NMABE President

Welcome

New Mexico Bilingual Educators and Friends,

Dear Friends and Colleagues,

Allow me to introduce our new partnership with *Language Magazine*. This is an exciting initiative that will provide you with more value from your NMABE membership. Count on receiving timely and important research-based articles from the fields of linguistics and language education.

I am even more excited to welcome you to our 33rd Annual New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education Conference. This year's theme is "Accountability in Bilingual Education Drives Academic Excellence." I am especially pleased with the theme because it reminds us and the outside world that we are about quality education--period. We have critics who think we do not value "accountability." On the

contrary, we believe in high standards for all students. Our Native American and Spanish-speaking students have just as much potential as any other students in this country, and we will continue to strive to give all of them the opportunity to reach that potential.

We know that the Dual Language Program model is the best research-based model for helping non-English-speaking students acquire English and learn academic content. It is also an excellent model for language recovery and for English monolingual students to acquire another language and learn academic content. With this knowledge in hand I believe we must work this model throughout New Mexico. If this is the best, why not students with the best? Do they deserve any less?

As more and more immigrant students enter our education it is important to remember that we in the for this endeavor. Let us give them the best success as they enter our colleges and universities become productive citizens of our com-

Our Native American students deserve their full potential. Innovative programs in other places are examples of what can be accomplished when communities are involved in the preservation and promotion of their own languages. As educators, let us continue to respectfully work alongside our indigenous communities to expand and improve our bilingual programs in Apache, Navajo, Tewa, Tiwa, Towa, Keres, Zuni.

Curriculum is another area where we can have a positive impact on education. The history of New Mexico, taught in the elementary grades, would give students a foundation for better relations between all people living in our state. I do not believe that we should teach history for the purpose of dividing groups, but rather for understanding and for the building of mutual respect. Many do not know or remember that our state belonged to the Native Americans first. The Spanish flag then flew from 1598-1821; the Mexican flag from 1821-1848; and the United States flag from 1848-present. An understanding of this chain of events gives one a perspective on whom and where and why we are today.

In closing, let me encourage all of you, but especially teachers, educational assistants, and principals, to above all, keep your love and respect for students, at the heart of all you do. Every morning, New Mexico parents send their children to school, trusting that caring adults will teach them. You are those caring adults. Let us continue working together to improve education for all of New Mexico's students.

Gabriel C. Baca
President

¡El que habla dos idiomas vale por dos!
He who speaks two languages is worth two!

Bilingualism and literacy in several languages is something to be proud of, something that should lead to better employment opportunities, and thus a better economic situation. While this is generally true, we in New Mexico have a challenging journey to ensure that our students receive the educational opportunities to achieve this lofty goal.

We, as bilingual educators, have an obligation to advocate for these students and the opportunities that should be made available to them. We have to work together to build quality programs and we have to then use the data our students generate to prove that bilingual education works.

There are many who would oppose us. I find it especially frustrating when I encounter bilingual professionals opposed to dual language. My questions to them are always the same, "Have your bilingual skills opened employment opportunities for you?" and "Why would you deny other children the same opportunities?"

Let's continue to work hard at making sure that all students have this wonderful opportunity. Become a NMABE member and get involved!

Thanks,
David R. Briseño
NMABE Executive Director



David Briseño
NMABE Executive Director

NMABE'S Newest Venture: Language Magazine

N M A B E Expands Membership Benefits

As you enjoy the professional development offerings and varied multicultural activities at NMABE's 33rd annual state conference, please also note the wonderful new benefit your membership offers. Beginning with this edition of *El Noticiero*, you will receive a monthly edition of *Language Magazine*, The Journal of Communication and Education. This benefit is included with your registration for the conference and continues one full year, that is, until next year's conference.

As you browse through this edition and those that follow, you will note how the magazine interweaves communication, language, and education across multiple topic areas—professional development, pedagogy, the world of business, multiculturalism, technology, heritage languages, and dialects, to name a few.

NMABE will offer a quarterly "wrap" of timely news on bilingual education from across the state as seen here. For the remaining months, NMABE will insert a page in the magazine to update you on school news, Native American issues in bilingual education, pertinent information from the Bilingual Education Bureau at the PED and other important announcements.

The Associate Editor, Mary Jean Habermann López, welcomes any announcements, human interest stories, and school news that members wish to share with colleagues throughout New Mexico. Please share your news with her directly at her email address on or before the 15th of each month. (email: maryjeanhl@msn.com) Let us hear from you!

Enjoy!

IAIE Hosts Workshop for Native Language Speakers

On January 11th and 12th, 2005, the Institute for American Indian Education (IAIE) at the University of New Mexico hosted a two-day workshop for Native language speakers. The workshop was sponsored by the UNM's Institute for Professional Development and the Linguistic Institute for Native Americans. Native speakers representing seven different languages attended including: Zuni, Acoma, Isleta, Nambe, Santa Clara, Santa Ana, Cochiti, Mescalero Apache, and Navajo.

Thirty participants spent two days learning and practicing various strategies for teaching Native languages, planning language lessons, as well as becoming skilled at the process of language learning. All of the individuals in attendance were those from local tribal communities who have taken on the responsibility for teaching their Native language in schools and tribal community language programs. The two-day session also provided an



opportunity to discuss issues and challenges these teachers are facing in teaching Native languages in schools.

One of the highlights of the workshop was having the teachers participate in language immersion teaching demonstrations conducted entirely in Spanish by Dr. Rebecca Blum Martínez and in Keres by Ms. Anne Ka-hee from Cochiti Pueblo. Following these demonstrations, Dr. Christine Sims facilitated several activities in which participants from the different language groups were assigned to teach a particular lesson to a language group different from theirs. All of the activities were meant to bring a greater awareness of their own teaching practices and to help them understand the importance of using their respective languages exclusively during language learning activities. Future workshops are being planned as follow-up for this group as well as for new participants who may not have been able to attend this first session.



El Noticiero

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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)

Share your School's News about Bilingual Multicultural Education!

The **Cuba Public Schools** offers a maintenance bilingual education program in its three district schools: Cuba High School, Cuba Middle School and Cuba Elementary. The program supports both Spanish and Navajo, with Navajo language teachers at every school site. Recently, the parents on the Indian Education Committee requested that a Navajo class be set up for parents and other community members. At the high school, Navajo students are busy learning to drum and sing. Two students have been singing the National Anthem in Navajo at the basketball games. They also performed in the Rotunda of the State Capitol Building during the recent legislative session. Additionally, students have prepared for the Native American Language Arts Festival that occurs during the NMABE bilingual education conference. The Spanish component of the maintenance program have prepared as well for the Spanish Spelling Bee being held at the NMABE state conference. Students in the Spanish program have also been cooking and learning to folk dance.

The **Las Cruces Public Schools'** Bilingual/Migrant Dept. has been offering a very effective professional development opportunity entitled *No English Language Learner Left Behind (NELLLB): The Tools to Make It Happen*, developed by Learning 24/7. It includes two initial days of training using research-based pedagogy and androgogy and one follow-up day. At that session, participants bring artifacts showing how they implemented the ideas learned from the framework to more effectively meet the needs of ELL's in the classroom. The workshop will be offered for the fourth time this academic year. It is very popular and fills up immediately as word around the district is that it is very useful and the ideas shared can be implemented immediately for the benefit of all students by any committed teacher. LCPS is also developing a cadre of trainers prepared by Learning 24/7 to continue this effort.

The **Taos Municipal Schools** offers the following news:

- Taos Elementary School began a dual language immersion program for 34 Kindergarten students this school year. The two teachers—Nadine Vigil and Molly Martínez—have done an outstanding job in getting the program up and running. The plan is to build the program to the 5th grade at the elementary level and then work on implementing the program at the middle school as well.
- Taos School District has received Immigrant funding to help newly arrived students from Mexico and beyond. Conducting tutorials sessions at the schools, the district has hired a community liaison to help recruit students and their families. The liaison will provide support for our students as they go through the Taos school system. These students will be an integral part of the summer school program.
- Taos Municipal Schools recently held a parent meeting for all families from across the district. With the help of the community liaison over 300 parents attended. Families brought food, the Kindergarten students performed for everyone, and then participants broke up by school for information sharing and work sessions on the needs of the students and their families. The district was extremely pleased with the parent/family turnout and the work sessions. A key ingredient for parent participation is seeing their children perform. Of course, food brings everyone together.
- Dr. Rosa Herrera, our Bilingual Education Director and the Director of Instruction for the district is one of 40 experts from around the world who has been invited to attend the Round Table in Oxford, England. The focus of the discussion will be on reading. Dr. Herrera is a reading specialist and looks forward to the opportunity to interact with individuals from around the globe. "I will learn so much from everyone" and "I am excited to be able to attend and share our knowledge on an international level" said Dr. Rosa, as she is affectionately called.

Artesia Bilingual Student Wins First Place in Legislative Essay Competition

In conjunction with Hispanic Cultural Day at the Legislature on Feb. 8, 2005, legislators recognized the winners of their statewide writing competition at a joint meeting of the House and Senate. Middle school and high schools were asked to submit essays on the topic, "What Hispanic Culture Means to Me," writing about any event or contribution by an individual that had an impact on them. Essays were to be typed and be between 3-6 pages in length. At the elementary level, students were to submit a hand drawn art project. The top three entries in each category were awarded a scholarship: \$1,000 for 1st place, \$500 for second place, and \$250 for third place.

Yesenia Sánchez, a sixth grader at Artesia Intermediate School took first place in the middle schools competition. Yesenia started the middle school as a monolingual speaker of Spanish and is learning English as her second language. She has good aural and reading comprehension skills in both languages. She submitted her winning five-page essay in Spanish, including references, and it was translated to English for the legislators. She is an avid reader and currently has accumulated the third highest number of Accelerated Reading (AR) points in the school. She loves to read and has read all of the Harry Potter books in Spanish and then successfully read the fifth book in English and passed the AR quiz. She

will also be participating in the District's Spelling Bee. Yesenia, who lives in a small rural community called Lakewood or Seven Rivers, gets on the bus at 7:00 am to come to school.

The awards were presented during a joint legislative meeting. In attendance were Dr. Gladys Herrera Gurulé, State Director of Bilingual Education, Mr. Johnny Saiz of the Artesia schools, and Yesenia's bilingual education teacher, Ms. Elma Samora. Her parents and her two sisters proudly participated as Yesenia received her \$1,000 scholarship. The Artesia Public Schools provided the family with the necessary expenses to attend.

Middle school winners

2nd: Daniel Moya--Our Lady of Annunciation, Albuquerque, NM
3rd: Diana Molina--Jefferson Middle School, Albuquerque, NM

High school winners

1st: Issac Martínez--Cobre, NM
2nd: Amanda Wachter--Las Cruces, NM
3rd: Gabe López--Silver City, NM

