



El Noticiero

Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

www.nmabe.net

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Summer 2010

AMME's Inaugural Conference is a Great Success

The Alliance for Multilingual Multicultural Education (AMME) convened its inaugural conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico May 19-21 amidst national debates about the future of elementary and secondary education. Hundreds of advocates, practitioners and researchers from across the globe and across the United States came together to learn, share and influence the direction of multilingual and multicultural education. The conference was energizing and rejuvenating, as well as successful in kicking off a new movement that supports, celebrates and unabashedly advocates for multilingualism and multiculturalism for all children.

Two years ago, AMME Founders and Board began work to establish a new national non-profit advocacy and professional organization dedicated to bringing about fundamental change in U.S. language education policy and supporting practices which respond to the demographic and global economic imperative. (See "NMABE Affiliates with the Alliance for Multilingual Multicultural Education", El Noticiero, Spring, 2009, Vol. 33, No. 3) The New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education, Dual Language Education of New Mexico and the Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations were instrumental in making this event a great success.

The keynote speakers at the AMME conference included Dr. Thelma Meléndez de Santa Ana, the Assistant

Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education at the U.S. Department of Education; Joe García, an esteemed leader from Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo and immediate Past-President of the National Congress for American Indians; and Retired Lieutenant Colonel Consuelo Castillo-Kickbusch, nationally recognized parent advocate. Featured speakers included: Dr. María E. Torres Guzmán, Dr. Joel Gómez, Dr. Aida Walqui, and Dr. Otto Santa Ana. Dozens of additional panel discussions and workshops addressed best practices, research findings and civil rights.

Consistent with AMME's mission to advocate for multilingual and multicultural education for our children, families and communities, the organization released a set of recommendations for the reauthorization of Title III of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (also called the No Child Left Behind Act). The recommendations were guided by the *Castañeda v. Pickard* Supreme Court Decision which requires a three-part test to evaluate the adequacy of a district's program for ELL students. The recommendations are: "(1) The program must be based on an educational theory recognized as sound by some experts in the field or is

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Joe García, President of the National Congress of American Indians and Ohkay Owingeh Governor, delivers powerful opening address at AMME.



NMABE past president, Dr. Rodolfo Chávez, welcomes Dr. Thelma Meléndez de Santa Ana, Asst. Secretary U.S. Dept. of Education to AMME Inaugural Conference.



Director of White House Initiative on the Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, Juan Sepúlveda, Esq., hosts closing town Hall Meeting.

Portales Bilingual Education Teacher Wins Award

Becky Durán, Bilingual Education Teacher in the Dual Language Program at Valencia Elementary School in Portales, received the Newspapers in Education Award in early May.

"Becky uses newspapers in her Bilingual Education classroom to teach reading skills, such as reading comprehension and word definition, and to showcase different types of writing." said Esther Bargas, Secretary for the program. "She is a dedicated and important part of the Dual Language team at the 5th Grade-Valencia Elementary."

The following article came out in the Portales News Tribune on May 23, 2010, "Lifetimes".

"Becky Durán, a fifth-grade teacher at Valencia Elementary School, has received the Newspapers in Education Teacher of the Year Award. She received the award last week. Valencia Principal Michael Terry recommended Durán for the award.

'I recommended her in about February or March,' Terry said. 'Ms. Durán works with students learning English as a second language. It stresses the importance of students learning to both read and speak in English.'

The award is given to a teacher who creatively uses newspapers in lesson plans.

'We have a bilingual classroom,' explained Durán. 'Some speak English and some speak Spanish. We use the newspaper for different types of writing. As an example, we use the Kid's Interview. Each week we search for vocabulary words, and then we teach those words in Spanish. We use the news all year long. The students take the newspapers home and translate them into Spanish.'

Becky also uses newspapers to teach reading skills, including reading comprehension and word definitions. Terry said Durán is caring, and has a patient approach to teaching.

'Ms. Durán teaches (in a way that is) fun,' student Wilfredo Exiga said. 'I am learning a lot ... both in English and Spanish.'

Durán explained that, after a language proficiency test, she gives students, she discusses results with them. It is their choice whether to continue dual language education in sixth grade or be in a regular classroom."

The article was written by Linda Long: Portales News Tribune Correspondent

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considered by experts as a legitimate experimental strategy; (2) The programs and practices, including resources and personnel, must be reasonably calculated to implement this theory effectively; and (3) The school district must evaluate its programs and makes adjustments where needed to ensure language barriers are actually being overcome." [648 F.2d 989 (5th Cir. 1981)] The complete set of recommendations will be available on AMME's website: www.ammeglobal.org. AMME board members and other national experts attending the conference have met with representatives from the White House and U.S. Department of

Education to discuss the recommendations.

Juan Sepúlveda, the Director of the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans, led a spirited town hall meeting at the conclusion of the conference. .

The Second Annual AMME conference will occur in San Antonio, Texas, April 6-8, in 2011. It will focus on best practices in multilingual education. Participants will exchange knowledge with experts in the field of second language acquisition for academic learning while enjoying the beautiful city of San Antonio.



El Noticiero

El Noticiero is published monthly 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. 34:1 Fall 2009: October
(Conference Edition)

No. 34:2 Winter 2010: January
(Board News, Bilingual Education Day,
Call to Action)

No. 34:3 Spring 2010: April
(Institute Announcements)

No. 34:4 Summer 2010: July
(Summer Activities)

Monthly Inserts/Wraps with Language Magazine



NORTHWEST REGIONAL NATIVE AMERICAN INSTITUTE

HARVESTING SEEDS OF LEARNING

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 25, 2010
CATE CENTER
FARMINGTON PUBLIC SCHOOLS
8:00 A.M. – 4:30 P.M.

COMPLIMENTARY CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
AND BOX LUNCH

INFORMATIVE OPENING AND LUNCHEON
SPEAKER

TOPICS

- NATIVE LANGUAGE LITERACY
- NM ELD STANDARDS
- PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT
- STUDENT MOTIVATION
- CLASSROOM MANAGEMENT
- ACADEMIC LANGUAGE
- CULTURE AND LANGUAGE AS A PLUS IN THE CLASSROOM

EXHIBITORS

DOOR PRIZES



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REGISTRATION COSTS

SCHOOL PERSONNEL: \$ 75
PARENTS: \$ 35
STUDENTS: \$ 15

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NORTHEAST REGIONAL NMABE INSTITUTE

UNLEASHING THE POTENTIAL OF NATIVE LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

SEPTEMBER 11, 2010
OHKAY CASINO/RESORT HOTEL
ESPANOLA NM
8:00 A.M. TO 4:00 P.M.

KEYNOTE DR. KATHY ESCAMILLA

REGISTRATION: \$ 75.00

COMPLIMENTARY CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST
AND FULL LUNCH

TOPICS

- PRUEBA: TIPS AND STRATEGIES
- USING DICHOS TO ENCOURAGE NATIVE LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT
- SPANISH LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT STANDARDS
- HISTORY OF BILINGUAL EDUCATION
- NATIVE LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT FOR NATIVE AMERICANS

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