



El Noticiero

Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

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Rio Rancho Bilingual Education Teacher Named New Mexico Teacher of the Year

On Nov. 4, 2009, Public Education Secretary Veronica C. García announced that Blythe Turner of Río Rancho Elementary School was named the 2008-09 New Mexico Teacher of the Year.

Blythe has been a Bilingual Education teacher for six years and is the Native American liaison in Río Rancho Public Schools. She will represent New Mexico at the National Teacher of the Year honoring ceremony.

"The New Mexico Public Education Department is proud to have a wonderful, caring professional as our representative in

the national competition," said Secretary García. "She beat out a strong field of candidates."

"I pride myself on my efforts to increase my knowledge and, in turn, increase my power as an educator," said Blythe. "I aspire to bestow upon my students a drive to become a lifelong learner and to share their knowledge with others. All students should be proud of who they are and where they come from, and have the opportunity to share their heritage and individuality with others."

Barbara Bruce, principal at Río Rancho

Elementary, said that Blythe has a strong multicultural perspective, sets high expectations for her students and is highly respected by her colleagues for her expertise.

"She possesses a vast level of knowledge in sheltered instruction and language acquisition, and is committed to involving her students in goal setting and data study," said Bruce.

The New Mexico Teacher of the Year Program recognizes excellence in teaching, and Ms. Blythe will be recognized by

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Register Now for Upcoming Professional Development and Legislative Activities

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 (ELLs) are often 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 so that all students can benefit.

NMABE has designed its annual Bilingual Educators' Institute around this compelling challenge. It is one which many educators face daily in the schools of New Mexico.

The Institute will inform participants about effective teaching strategies for Hispanic and Native American ELL students. Research has shown these strategies are valuable instructional tools for all teachers — elementary, middle, secondary — including Title I, and Special Education teachers. Above all, the Institute will be particularly beneficial for educators in Schools in Need of Improvement.

The Priority Schools Bureau of the NMPED will open up the

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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 instruction 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, NMABE has been able to secure **24 table spaces** in the East and West wings of the Rotunda. Plan on being there!

Student entertainment will occur 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

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NMABE 2009 State Spanish Spelling Bee Scheduled

The NMABE State Spanish Spelling Bee will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2009 at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque. Registration for the event will begin at 8:30 am and begin promptly at 9:30 am.

There will be a special events luncheon honoring the Spanish Spelling Bee participants and their parents from 12:00-1:30 p.m. Each participant will receive three (3) complimentary tickets. Additional luncheon tickets will be available for sale at \$45 per person and must be purchased prior to the event.

The district information is due in the NMABE office on March 27, 2009. Mail or fax it to:

NMABE State Spanish Spelling Bee
P. O. Box 5190
Clovis, NM 88102-5190
The fax number is: 505-769-0742.
Spelling Bee Booklet

NMABE is in the process of developing a new list of words for the State Spanish Spelling Bee. It will be ready for district winners to study from before the state event. In the meantime, NMABE recommends that districts use the old list for local competitions.

The new word list is being developed by Fernando Martín from the Spanish Resource Center. The new booklet will be ready for download from the Internet in January, 2009.

It is recommended that each district carefully follow the rules and guidelines outlined in the spelling bee booklet.

NMABE thanks each and every school district for its support of and participation in this noteworthy statewide event.

For questions and/or more information, you may contact David Briseño at 575-309-3599 or at nmabe@suddenlink.net.

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Secretary García and the New Mexico Public Education Commission (PEC) at their December 11, 2008 meeting in Santa Fe.

Thirteen school districts nominated teachers for this recognition. The finalists were Laurie Levine-Rowen from Creative Education Prep Institute #1 in Albuquerque, Fancy Karnes from Río Grande Elementary in Belén, Beatrice A. Girón from Roosevelt Elementary School in Bernalillo, Michael Dean Thompson from Bloomfield High School, Renie Smith from Clovis High School in Clovis, Helen C. Salazar from Hernández Elementary in Española, Karen Nougues from Chaparral High School in Gadsden Independent Schools, Victoria Flynn from Río Grande Elementary in Hatch Valley, Beatrice Ornelas Acosta from Oñate High School in Las Cruces, Scott B. Johnson from Barranca Mesa Elementary in Los Alamos, Gina Kasky from Ann Parish Elementary in Los Lunas, and Patricia A. Romero from Ortiz Middle School in Santa Fe.

The National Teacher of the Year Program is administered by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO). The National Teacher of the Year is chosen from the state Teachers of the Year by a national selection committee representing the major national education organizations. For more information, visit <http://www.ccsso.org/projects/NationalTeacheroftheYear>.

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conference with a presentation on how to use the EPSS to target interventions, especially for ELLs.

Next, the presenters will use the New Mexico Public Education Department's (NMPED) new Response to Intervention manual, published by the NMPED and entitled the Student Assistance Team and the Three-Tier Model of Student Intervention (SAT Manual), as the lens to present 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 best for ELL students. The uniform and consistent use 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 best strategies and interventions for English language learners.

The Institute is co-sponsored by the Bureau of Bilingual Multicultural Education of the NMPED.

Registration Details

Location: Hotel Santa Fe, 1501 Paseo de Peralta (Located at the intersection of Cerrillos and Paseo de Peralta)

Date: January 29, 2009

Room Rates: \$60 - Double, \$75 - Junior Suite

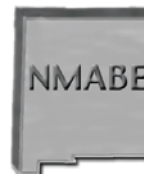
Reservation Deadline: **JANUARY 7, 2009**

Contact Information:

Telephone: 1-800-825-9876

Fax: 505-984-2211

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El Noticiero

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P. O. Box 5190
Clovis, New Mexico 88102-5190
www.nmabe.net

Editor Mary Jean Habermann López
maryjeanhl@msn.com

Copy Editor Dr. Kathryn Sherlock
kcsherlock43@yahoo.com

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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

Navajo Language Assessment Piloted

by Hondo Louis

Public Information Officer

Department of Diné Education

"The Navajo language has been taught for over 30 years in some schools," said Eddie Tso, "without any Navajo Nation-endorsed, standardized instrument to actually test students on their language proficiency." Tso is Program Supervisor of the Diné Language, Culture and Community Services program at the Department of Diné Education in Window Rock, Arizona. He adds, "And if we're going to revitalize our language, then we need some form, some way of determining whether or not these students are actually learning the language. This piloted assessment is the tool that will determine Navajo language proficiency."

In school year 2007, the Navajo Nation, in a project supported and co-funded by the New Mexico Public Education Department, piloted a Navajo language assessment in six New Mexico public schools in Albuquerque, Bloomfield, Central Consolidated, Farmington, Gallup McKinley, and Grants/Cibola school districts. In

July, 2008, the assessment was recommended for approval and implementation.

"Once it is approved by the Board of Education and the Education Committee of the Navajo Nation Council, the next step," said Tso, "is to train teachers on the assessment and adopt it. While some schools have implemented the assessment already, full implementation is planned for school year 2009-10."

"In the future, we hope that it will not be just in elementary schools, but also in all other grades—K-12," said Tso.



Eddie Tso, Program Supervisor and Carol Thomas, Administrative Assistant, of Diné Language, Culture and Community Services

Governor Bill Richardson Unveils Navajo Language Textbook in Gallup and Farmington

On October 24, 2008, Governor Bill Richardson traveled to Gallup High School and Farmington High School to talk with students and Navajo leaders about the first Navajo textbook, *Diné Bizaad Binahoo'aah (Rediscovering the Navajo Language)*. This is the first time that a text written by a Navajo author has been adopted as a textbook for teaching the Navajo language.

The textbook written by Dr. Evangeline Parsons Yazzie, Professor of Navajo at Northern Arizona University, and Dr. Margaret Speas, Professor of Linguistics at University of Massachusetts was adopted as a state approved textbook in July. School districts are now conducting their own reviews and selections of new texts that will be in the classroom beginning in the 2009-2010 school year. Both the Gallup and the Farmington school districts have begun to use the new textbook this school year.

"I thank Dr. Parsons Yazzie and Dr. Speas for your commitment to this project and for your dedication to helping preserve the Navajo language," said Governor Richardson. "One of my first acts as Governor was to sign the state's Indian Education Act, which among other things, calls for culturally relevant instructional materials and preserving native languages. Your textbook is a commitment to our Native American students and the to Navajo Nation that your language will continue."

Governor Richardson was joined at the news conferences by Secretary of Education Veronica C. García, Secretary of Indian Affairs Alvin H. Warren, Navajo leaders and state legislators. Also, students talked about their experiences using the new textbook.

"With this textbook, Navajo students will have the opportunity to understand the history of their family and culture while improving their academic achievement," said Secretary García. "Reading scores for Native American students have increased 6% over the last four years. We have also increased the number of Native American teachers and administrators by 15% in the last four years. Language is the key to education goals, and Dr. Parsons Yazzie and Professor Speas have provided a resource for students to better understand language and cultural foundations."

"New Mexico has made great strides towards improving the quality of education for Indian students in the state and providing competitive access to economic opportunity and prosperity," said Secretary Warren. "Dr. Parsons Yazzie and Professor Speas have made a huge contribution to the preservation of the Navajo language, a gift to future generations."

Eight Native American languages are taught in New Mexico public schools, with over 5,000 students in Navajo language classes. The textbook will provide resources to teachers of Navajo language; it also supports the 2007 amended Indian Education Act, which calls for ensuring culturally relevant instructional materials.

Spanish Immersion Institute

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

Library Bond B Passes

On November 4, 2008, New Mexico voters passed Bond B, which will provide for General Obligation Bonds to fund \$11 million for New Mexico's publicly-supported libraries (i.e., \$2 million for tribal libraries and \$3 million each for school libraries, college libraries and public libraries). The vote was 52% for the Bond and 48% against. Thanks to all who voted for this and to Adrian Sandoval for his help in promoting this funding effort!

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Internet email: stay@hotelsantafe.com
Booking #: 1044YT, New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

Annual ALDI Institute: A 30-Year Tradition of Speaking from the Heart

The 30th Annual American Indian Language Development Institute (ALDI) will be held at the University of Arizona, June 8 - July 2, 2009. AILDI 2009 will offer a variety of classes, special presentations, workshops and a symposium to help celebrate its 30-year commitment to indigenous language education. It will be held at the University of Arizona. Priority Registration deadline is March 11, 2009. For more information, go to <http://www.u.arizona.edu/~aildi>.

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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.

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

Don't forget

NMABE 2009

Sept. 24-26, 2009
Embassy Suites Hotel
Albuquerque, NM

For more information
visit the website at
www.nmabe.net

**Bilingual Multicultural
Education:
Pathway to Success**

**37th
annual
conference**