



El Noticiero

Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

www.nmabe.net

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November, 2006

New Mexico Community Forum on Immigration Policy Held in Santa Fe

Through the efforts of various organizations, including NMABE, the first-ever New Mexico Community Forum on Immigration policy was held on September 28, 2006 in Santa Fe, NM. During the summer, Congress held field hearings on immigration reform in every southern border state except New Mexico. New Mexico has a long history of taking bold steps to integrate the immigrant community into the cultural, economic, and civic life of the state. This forum was orga-

nized to ensure the communities of New Mexico would have the opportunity to engage in this national dialogue.

At this first and unprecedented event, New Mexico's congressional delegation and other state elected officials had the opportunity to hear directly from their constituents on the subject of immigration reform. Many policy makers, law enforcement officials, community members, and labor, faith and business leaders were in attendance and shared their

views on state and federal policies that touch on immigration including legalization proposals, drivers' licenses, health and housing services, educational benefits for immigrants, militarization of New Mexico's border, and the proper role of state and local law enforcement in addressing immigration matters.

NMABE President Julia Rosa López Emslie delivered NMABE's position statement. (See page four.)

Bernalillo Schools Holds "Affirming Diversity" Conference

Dr. Carlos Abeyta, Director of the Bernalillo Schools Bilingual Multicultural Program organized the district's "Affirming Diversity" conference on October 23rd.

Of the 3000 students in the Bernalillo Public Schools, 45 percent are Hispanic, 42 percent Native American, and 8 percent Caucasian. Eighty-five percent (85%) of the student population come from a home environment where a language other than English is spoken and 59 percent of these students have been identified as English Language Learners (ELL). "Our students come to school with a diverse learning style rooted in rich cultural traditions and ways of life. We must acquire multicultural strategies that use the rich student experiences as resources for further learning," said Dr. Abeyta.

The district tapped the rich resources and expertise of its own teachers, program directors and administrators in offering the wide range of topics on language, culture, and teaching practices.

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2007

35th
Annual
Conference



NMABE State Bilingual Education Conference

April 26-28, 2007
Embassy Suites Hotel
Albuquerque, New Mexico

for more information visit our site at www.nmabe.net

NMABE Hosts January Legislative & Training Activities

Mark your calendars! NMABE will host its annual Bilingual Educators Institute and Bilingual Education Day at the New Mexico Legislature on January 30-31, 2007 in Santa Fe, NM. The Institute will be held at the Hotel Santa Fe on Cerrillos Road. The hotel has reserved rooms for participants at a special conference rate of \$55.00 - Standard room and \$70.00 - Junior Suite.

Activities will include the Institute on the 30th all day and Bilingual Education Day at the Legislature on the 31st. At that time NMABE encourages school districts to share student work with the general public at the State Capitol and take time to visit legislators. There is also a press conference planned with student entertainment during the noon hour in the Rotunda. Look for more information coming soon to the NMABE website, www.nmabe.net

CALL FOR PRESENTATION - PROPOSAL FORM

**Please type or print carefully. Deadline for submission:
Friday, December 15, 2006**

A. Title: _____

B. Name(s) and affiliations of presenter(s): (List contact person first.)

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____

C. Address of Contact Person:

Number and Street

City

State

Zip

D. Telephone Number of Contact Person: (____) _____

E. Contact Person's E-mail Address: _____

F. Description: (50 word description for program. Descriptions exceeding 50 words will be edited.)

G. Place an "X" before the type of presentation:

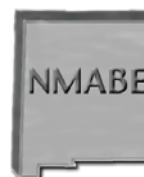
- () Demonstration (1 hour) () Paper (1 hour) () Poster Session (2 hours)
 () Symposium (2 hours) () Workshop (2 hours)

H. Language of presentation:

AV Equipment needs: All rooms will be equipped with an overhead projector and screen and one corded microphone at no cost. NMABE is no longer offering rental computer systems for use in presentations. If you need to use a computer and/or other AV equipment for your presentation, you must bring one or personally make arrangements to rent one. Presenters will be responsible for the costs and arrangements for any other equipment needed for their session(s). NMABE will not be handling any audio visual equipment orders. A conference vendor for such equipment will be enlisted but has not been selected. We will provide contact information for this vendor in notifications letters for accepted proposals.

Return completed form to: NMABE State Conference, 2007
 P.O. Box 5190, Clovis, NM 88102-5190
 or e-mail to: nmabe@plateautel.net

**The primary presenter will receive a complimentary registration.
 All co-presenters must pay the one-day (\$200) pre-registration fee.**



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.

P. O. Box 5190
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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

No. 31:1, Fall, 2006 Oct.

(Pre-conference issue)

No. 31:2, Winter, 2007: January

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

No. 31:3 Spring, 2007: April

(Conference Edition)

No. 31:4 Summer, 2007: August

(Summer Activities, Institutes)

Inserts offer monthly news

REGISTRATION FORM
NMABE 35th ANNUAL STATE CONFERENCE
April 26-28, 2007
The Embassy Suites Hotel Albuquerque, New Mexico

Name: _____ Home Telephone: (____) _____

Home Address: _____
Number and Street City State Ai- Code

E-mail Address: _____

School District Name: _____ Position/Grade: _____

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES: Registration form must accompany your check, money order or purchase order. Purchase order must specify names of individuals to be registered and type of registration. Refunds will not be made after April 6, 2007 (applies to purchase orders as well as advance payments). PRE-REGISTRATION MUST BE POSTMARKED NO LATER THAN March 13, 2007. Your conference payment will include NMABE membership and a subscription to Language Magazine.

PAID WITH:

___ Personal Check # _____ ___ Purchase Order # _____ ___ District Check # _____

PRE-REGISTRATION FEE:

Postmarked on/or Before ___ Full.....\$275 ___ *Student Full.....\$ 100
March 3, 2006 ___ One Day.....\$200 ___ *Student 1 Day.....\$ 75

*Please include verification of full time student status

ON SITE REGISTRATION FEE:

Postmarked After ___ Full.....\$300 ___ Student Full.....\$ 115
March 3, 2006 ___ One Day.....\$225 ___ Student 1 Day.....\$ 100

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO:
NMABE 2007 CONFERENCE

SEND PAYMENT AND REGISTRATION FORMS TO:

NMABE State Conference, 2007
P.O. Box 7788
Albuquerque, NM 87194

Visit the NMABE Website at: www.nmabe.net

Book your rooms now at the Embassy Suites Hotel! The Host Hotel for 35th Annual State Bilingual Conference!

Call 1-505-245-7100 and make your reservations today.

Embassy Suites Albuquerque Hotel
1000 Woodward Place NE

Let them know that you are registering for the NMABE Conference!

NEW MEXICO ASSOCIATION FOR BILINGUAL EDUCATION

*In support of a comprehensive immigration reform
and against English-only amendments*

The New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education (NMABE) strongly opposes both the House and Senate immigration reform bills. The bills do not address the need to provide means for legalization for undocumented persons in the country. Furthermore, their provisions would tear families apart. The bills also include provisions that would make English the official language of the United States.

NMABE believes that there is no need to make English the official language of the country since it is clearly **the** official language. We do not want New Mexico to go the way of states such as California and Arizona that have passed English-only laws that have prohibited the use of other languages, such as Spanish, to deliver instruction in the public schools. The results of these laws have created problems for teachers and school administrators that clearly know that the best way for children to learn English is through the use of their native language.

In New Mexico bilingualism and bilingual education have been in existence since 1848 during the Territorial Period when English was added as the eighth language spoken in what we know today as New Mexico. At this time English and Spanish were used for instruction in private schools and later in public schools. The 1912 Constitution also provides several articles that maintain a bilingual citizenry. So historically New Mexico has always been a state where multilingualism has been valued and encouraged.

In 1969 the legislature passed SB 270 that had as its goal to maintain the language and culture of the children of the state. This was the first state bilingual education law in New Mexico and in the United States. In 1971 the legislature passed SB 155 allocating funds for bilingual education programs in the state. Since then the number of programs has increased significantly.

The value of bilingualism has been documented both as an academic and an economic asset. Monolingual English speaking parents have recognized the advantages for their children becoming bilingual. Two-way dual language programs have become very popular and are in great demand. Because of the nature of the program, two distinct language populations, immigrant students have become an integral part of these programs.

The members of NMABE, all educators, strongly support the immigrant population in the state and the schools and believe that immigrant students enrich the education of all students. These students add a new language and culture to the school setting. In addition their families become active contributors to their communities.

News from New Mexico State University *By Dr. Maria Mercado, Assoc. Prof.*

Ten undergraduate New Mexico State University students recently underwent examination of their Spanish language proficiency by virtue of taking *Prueba*. Dr. María Mercado, Dr. Luis Huerta Charles and Dr. Elva Reza López (faculty at NMSU) conducted three practice sessions for students in order to prepare for the *Prueba* exam. The practice sessions were a follow up to the Spanish Language Immersion Institute held on the NMSU campus over the summer in which students spent an intensive week concentrating on supporting Spanish language academic registers of the elementary classroom setting, including reading, writing and speaking experiences. In addition, they exam-

ined Spanish language variation common to the southern and Northern areas of New Mexico. Students also were fortunate to attend the *Centro Cultural de Mesilla* in which they got to meet and converse (in Spanish) with Denise Chavez, internationally, nationally and locally renowned author. They culminated their institute with a visit to the *Museo de la Aduana* and the Cathedral in Cd. Juárez. On their way to Cd. Juárez, they were also treated to a visit to Cinco Puntos Press, and learned about the editorial and publication process of children's literature in Spanish. All in all, a great week of intensive learning, and inspiration revolving multiple historical and cultural dimensions of the border region

Reading First Focuses on ELL's

New Mexico Reading First is delivering a "mini-institute" on Nov 28 and 29 at the Tamaya Resort in Bernalillo that will focus on ELL's. Contact Liza Rael, PED (liza.rael@state.nm.us) for more information. Topics and speakers::

- Sailing the Seven C's" Comprehension, Connections, Conversation, Classroom mgt, etc. *Sharon Gatti-Carson*
- "Teaching and Reaching Them All... The Next Steps" strategies to help meet the needs of culturally and linguistically diverse students. *Elisabeth Nixon*
- Comprehensive Reading Instruction and Academic Language Development – Essential for Success in School. *Lupina Vela*
- ¡Vamos a leer en español! *Dr. Julia Rosa Emslie*