



# El Noticiero

Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

www.nmabe.net

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## Back-to-School Institutes Strengthen Parent/School Partnerships Over the Years

The September edition of *El Noticiero* included a story about the 19th annual Back to School Institute, a one-of-a-kind event geared towards parents and families (See Vol. 34, No. 4.2. *19th Annual Back-to-School Family Institute and the 12th Annual Youth Leadership Institute Schedule*).

The Institute will be held November 4-5, 2010 at the Hilton Santa Fe Golf Resort & Spa at Buffalo Thunder in Pojoaque, NM. It is sponsored by the Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations (CESDP), the Ben Lujan Leadership and Public Policy Center, ENLACE and New Mexico Highlands University.

The Institute was founded 19 years ago by Dr. Rodolfo Chávez, NMABE Past President and Senior Associate for the CESDP, and Dr. Paul Martinez, Director of the CESDP. At that time, Dr. Chávez directed one of the sixteen Title VII Multifunctional Resource Centers, offering training and technical assistance services to New Mexico and eight other states. Dr. Martinez was the director of the Evaluation Assistance Center (EAC) which helped Title VII Bilingual Education programs west of

the Mississippi with evaluation design and implementation. "At that point Paul Martinez and I gave birth to the idea. It was small at first; there were perhaps 40 parents/educators on the campus of NMHU." said Dr. Chávez in a recent interview. "The Institute was founded to arm and equip parents with the necessary information and resources to directly impact the academic success of their children. Many of those parents have students who are now in college."

The need, then and now, is to empower parents in a way to successfully feel an integral part of their family's education. By providing specific information, resources and strategies that strengthen parent and community involvement, the Institute helps NM schools become places that foster community collaboration and help parents and families to feel welcome at their schools.

Over the years, the Institute has had quite an impact. Dr. Chávez said, "I personally have seen parents improve their communication with schools and with the teachers who work with their children. I have seen parents gain positive parenting skills that apply to the home

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Dr. Chávez and Cyndee Gustke at Institute



Presenter works with Parent at Institute

## Lima, Peru Begins Spanish Spelling Bee Using NMABE Model

This past summer, David Briseño, the Executive Director of NMABE, received a request from José Antonio Sánchez Y of Lima, Peru to use the NMABE spelling bee format to initiate the first annual Spanish Spelling Bee in the city of Lima.

In his letter to Mr. Briseño, Mr. Sanchez Y stated, "We have a well-known saying in Peru: 'One must always imitate the best there is.' After learning about the Spanish Spelling Bee that your organization has successfully carried out over the

years in the United States, I reviewed information on your website to see if were possible for us to organize the very first *Concurso de Deletreo en Lima, Perú*. With your permission, we would like to use your format and also give full credit and recognition to your organization." Who knows whether the first-ever U.S. Spanish Spelling Bee Contest (planned for July, 2011) may actually be an international contest, with Lima, Peru's winner among the contestants? More on this in upcoming editions of NMABE's *El Noticiero*.



15<sup>th</sup> Annual Dual Language Conference

# La Cosecha 2010

November 17-20, 2010

Santa Fe Convention Center  
Santa Fe, New Mexico



La Fonda Headquarter Hotel

November 19<sup>th</sup>  
Dance Celebration  
with three time  
Grammy award  
winners:



Little Joe y La Familia

## Featured Speakers

- Jenni DeGroat
- Barbara Flores
- Mary Capellini
- Stanley Lucero
- Elena Izquierdo
- Kathy Escamilla
- Consuelo Kickbusch
- Michael Guerrero
- Virginia Collier
- Wayne Thomas
- Patricia Latham
- Esther DeJong
- David W. Moore
- Jeff Zwiers
- Natalie Olague
- DLeNM Staff

[www.lacosecha.dlenm.org](http://www.lacosecha.dlenm.org)

## First Quarterly Meeting of Bilingual/Title III Directors

By Florence Acque  
Title III Coordinator, BMEB

The Bilingual Multicultural Education Bureau of the New Mexico Public Education Department conducted the First Quarterly Bilingual/Title III Directors' meeting at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque on August 4-5, 2010.

Approximately 85 directors and other school personnel attended the two-day session. Some of the items on the agenda included: the Student Teacher Accountability Reporting System (STARS), the Office of Civil Rights perspectives regarding English Language Learners, Title III programs, the WEB-EPSS online monitoring tool, New Mexico's assessment program and an overview of the revised State Bilingual Application, PART II.

It was an informative two-day session. Participants went home with important updates for their Bilingual/Title III programs. In addition, books from Mexico were given to districts for use in their Bilingual Education programs as well the book by Yolanda Nava, entitled *Good Food, Good Health* and others in Spanish and English.

The BMEB would like to thank all the participants for their commitment to serving the needs of New Mexico's students.



# El Noticiero

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## PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

**No. 35:1 Fall 2010: October**  
(Back-to-School News)

**No. 35:2 Winter 2011: January**  
(Board News, Bilingual Education Day,  
Call to Action)

**No. 35:3 Spring 2011: April**  
(Conference Edition)

**No. 35:4 Summer 2011: July**  
(Summer Activities)

Monthly Inserts/Wraps with Language Magazine

## Three New Mexico Schools Chosen As 2010 USDE Blue Ribbon Schools By USDE

**S**ANTA FE - Dr. Susanna M. Murphy, New Mexico Secretary of Education Designate congratulated three schools - Bosque Farms Elementary School in Los Lunas Public Schools, Ranchvale Elementary School in Clovis Municipal Schools, and Santa Teresa Elementary School in Gadsden Independent Schools - for being named 2010 National Blue Ribbon Schools by the United States Department of Education. Santa Teresa Elementary School offers Bilingual Education as a means to help students achieve.

U.S. Secretary of Education Arne Duncan announced the names of 304 schools as 2010 National Blue Ribbon Schools at School Without Walls Senior High School in Washington, D.C. The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private elementary, middle and high schools that are either academically superior or that demonstrate dramatic gains in student achievement, helping to close gaps in achievement among minority and disadvantaged students. The schools - 254 public and 50 private - will be honored at an awards ceremony on November 15 at the Omni Shoreham Hotel in Washington, D.C.

"These three New Mexico schools are recognized as Blue Ribbon schools because they have demonstrated dramatic improvement for all students in their school by increasing reading and mathematics proficiency," said Secretary Murphy. "These schools can provide excellent best-practice examples for instruction to other schools. I congratulate the students, parents, teachers and school administrators for achieving this national recognition."

The Blue Ribbon Schools Program honors public and private schools based on one of two criteria: 1) schools whose students, regardless of background, achieve in the top 10 percent of their state on state tests; and 2) schools with at least 40 percent of their students from disadvantaged backgrounds that demonstrate dramatic improvement of student performance to high levels on state tests. Each school completed an extensive application that was reviewed by a USDE Committee, and was required to meet Adequate Yearly Progress, or AYP, in reading (language arts) and mathematics for the 2009-2010 school year.

All three New Mexico schools met the criteria for the number of students from disadvantaged backgrounds (Bosque Farms - 46%; Ranchvale - 54%; and Santa Teresa - 100%). The three schools also increased student performance in reading and mathematics over the last five years. Bosque Farms Elementary had a 19-point increase in student reading performance and a 42-point increase in mathematics performance. Ranchvale Elementary increased 16 points in reading performance and 33 points increase in mathematics performance. Santa Teresa Elementary had a 14-point increase in reading and a 25-point increase in mathematics.

Secretary-Designate Murphy will travel to each of the Blue Ribbon schools later this month to personally congratulate students, teachers, school administrators, parents and the community.

## National Center for Education Statistics: National Indian Education Study 2009, Part I and II

**T**he National Indian Education Study (NIES) is a two-part study. This report reveals little academic progress and widely varying cultural and school experiences for American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) students in grades 4 and 8.

The study includes results for 12 states with relatively large populations of AI/AN students, in addition to the national results. The public schools are categorized according to their proportion of AI/AN students—"high density" is at least 25 percent or more AI/AN, while "low density" is less than 25 percent AI/AN. The report also shows results for schools administered by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Education (BIE).

NIES 2009 Part I presents the National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) reading and mathematics achievement data for AI/AN students.

NIES 2009 Part II presents results from a survey conducted to learn more about AI/AN students' educational experiences, including their cultural exposure, academic aspirations, school conditions and curriculum. AI/AN students, their teachers and their school administrators participated in the survey. Overall, the level of knowledge and exposure to AI/AN languages and cultures that students reported varied widely, in part based on the type of school they attended.

To view the full report, visit: <http://nces.ed.gov/nationsreport-card/nies/>.

## National Center for Education Statistics: *NCES Releases Status and Trends in the Education of Racial and Ethnic Groups*

The report entitled the "Status and Trends in the Education of Racial and Ethnic Groups" examines educational progress and challenges in the United States based on race and ethnicity. This report shows that, over time, the numbers in each race/ethnicity who have completed high school and continued their education in college have increased. Despite these gains, the rate of progress has varied. Differences on key indicators of educational background, performance and attainment persist among the various races and ethnicities studied:

- In 2008, a higher percentage of children who identified as Asian (51 percent) had a mother with at least a bachelor's degree than did children who identified as White (36 percent), as two or more races (31 percent), as Black (17 percent), as American Indian/Alaska Native (16 percent), or as Hispanic (11 percent).

- Forty-eight percent of public school 4th-graders were eligible for free or reduced-price lunches in 2009, including 77 percent of Hispanics, 74 percent of Blacks, 68 percent of American Indian/Alaska Natives, 34 percent of Asian/Pacific Islanders, and 29 percent of Whites.

- From 1999 to 2008, the total number of Black and Hispanic students taking an Advanced Placement (AP)

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setting. Student learning has also been enhanced by parents networking with one another and also because of the excellent presenters who have always willingly provided great training and resources at the Institute. Finally, we have seen an increase in parent volunteerism and advocacy for students. Lastly, I see increased awareness, respect and collaboration among the communities and districts that have participated over the years."

Governor Richardson's focus on "Making Schools Work" emphasizes that partnerships among parents, children and schools are the key to learning. The Back-to-School Family institute provides an excellent venue for such partnerships, especially when school districts recruit and support parents' attendance at this premier New Mexico event. All players become involved -- school personnel parents, families -- to focus attention on how all can contribute to close the achievement gap. Also, if administrators, school board members and other educational personnel are receiving professional development and yet fail to include parents in this integral process, then schools have not realized the potential of their support and participation in ensuring academic success for all students.

This year, the opening Keynote speaker, Consuelo Kickbush, is a well-known and nationally sought-after family/parent presenter. There will be many excellent sessions for youth, who are also an integral part of the Institute. Child care service in an excellent childcare center will be available as well. Finally, two lucky participants will walk away with a laptop computer from the raffle in the closing session.

Rudy added, "Any district who sends us participants can rest assured and with full confidence that those they send will return with a totally different commitment to help students succeed and a greater sense of collaboration with the districts that sent them."

For registration and more information about the Back-to-School Family Institute, go to [www.cesdp.nmhu.edu](http://www.cesdp.nmhu.edu).

exam more than tripled, from 94,000 to 318,000 students. In 2008, Asians had the highest mean AP exam score (3.08) across all exams, while Blacks had the lowest (1.91).

- Among 8th-graders in 2009, 63 percent of Asians/Pacific Islanders had no absences in the past month, compared to 35 percent of American Indians/Alaska Natives.

- In 2008, 44 percent of White 18- to 24-year-olds were enrolled in colleges and universities (a 16 percentage-point increase from 1980); approximately 32 percent of Black 18- to 24-year-olds were enrolled in colleges or universities (an increase of 12 percentage points from 1980); and 26 percent of Hispanic 18- to 24-year-olds were enrolled (an increase of 10 percentage points from 1980).

The report additionally notes that more than 11 million elementary and secondary school students speak a language other than English at home.

To view the full report please visit <http://nces.ed.gov/pubsearch/pubsinfo.asp?pubid=2010015> NM.