



www.nmabe.net

Vol. 35, No. 3.1

May 2011

# El Noticiero

Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

## English Being Considered as Official Language

The March 24, 2011 edition of the Albuquerque Journal ran a story by Michael Coleman of the Journal Washington Bureau, "No N. M. Nod for Official English."

According to the article, a Congressional effort currently under way to designate English as the official language of the United States won't get support from a majority of New Mexico's federal lawmakers.

The House and Senate bills are sponsored by Rep. Steve King, R-Iowa, and Sen. James Inhofe, R-Okla. The bills "would require all federal business, as well as printed literature, etc., to be in English only. Neither bill has cleared a committee in its respective chamber. At least 28 states - not including New Mexico - have declared English their official language."

The idea behind the bill is that English, as the common language of the United States, can become a unifying force. Rep. King went

on to say, "We need to encourage assimilation of all legal immigrants in each generation. A nation divided by language cannot pull together as effectively as a people."

Previous congressional efforts to declare English as the nation's official language have all failed. In 2006, "former Sen. Pete Domenici, a Republican, was the only member of his party to vote against a similar bill in the Senate."

According to the article, Sen. Jeff Bingaman, as well as Reps. Martin Heinrich and Ben Ray Lujan, told the Journal that they opposed the legislation, citing a provision in the New Mexico Constitution that "explicitly protects from discrimination people who don't speak English."

"This effort to make English the official language is not only in direct conflict with the New Mexico Constitution, it also ignores the reality that diversity is one of our country's

greatest strengths," Lujan said.

Senator Bingaman indicated that the United States "should provide every opportunity possible" for Americans to learn English. He went on to say, "I am concerned about the impact 'English-only' legislation would have on New Mexico, where our state constitution was written in both Spanish and English, and explicitly protects individuals against discrimination by virtue of their inability to speak English."

Representative Heinrich called the legislation "political in nature. This bill is yet another wedge issue being used by Congressional Republicans to distract from their utter lack of an economic policy," Heinrich said.

In a statement released to the press, Sen. Tom Udall praised New Mexico's "rich blend of culturally significant languages." He continued, "Immigrants should learn English, but we should also be encouraging all

**Continued on Page 4**

## Anti-Immigrant Legislation Defeated

Legislation that called for eliminating drivers' licenses for undocumented workers was defeated in the last session of the New Mexico Legislature (2011). The original bill granting drivers' licenses to foreign nationals was signed into law by Governor Richardson in 2003. About 83,000 foreign nationals, including some legal residents, hold driver's licenses in the state.

While the bill to repeal the state's law was approved in the state House of Representatives on March 4, the Senate indicated they were more interested in toughening up the existing law rather than repealing it. The Senate voted to require foreign nationals to renew their licenses every two years, and extended a residency requirement for immigrant motorists seeking a license to six months from the current three-month requirement. Those measures were not enacted when the

House and Senate could not agree on the amended bill during the closing hours of the Legislative Session.

According to Daniel C. Vock, Stateline.org Staff Writer, New Mexico license applicants must show proof of identity, such as a passport, birth certificate or license from another state. Supporters of the policy say it helps authorities know who's on the road, encourages immigrant motorists to buy insurance and decreases tension between police and immigrants.

New Mexico also taps into the Mexico's database to look up names, birthdays and photos of Mexican drivers living in the state. The database lets the agency verify the identity of people who use an ID card issued by Mexican consulates, called the "matricula consular." The state also checks the identity of American citizens with a federal database.

According to Ken Ortiz, Director of the New Mexico Motor Vehicle Division, an ongoing audit found that more than 99 per cent of foreign drivers in New Mexico who signed up for a drivers' license used their correct identity. The agency recently announced it will start requiring all drivers, including foreign nationals, to provide two forms of identification instead of the "previous" one.

Ortiz said the ability of foreigners to get New Mexico licenses, a change instituted along with several other insurance reforms in 2003, contributed to a steep drop in the state's rate of uninsured motorists. In 2003, New Mexico had one of the worst uninsured rates in the country with "33 per cent". Now, its rate is 9 per cent. According to the National Immigration Law Center, insurance premiums also have dropped in the state and

**Continued on Page 4**

# Feds Settle with Arizona in Dispute over ELL Programs

Article reprinted in its entirety with permission from Education Week  
 "Learning the Language Blog" by Mary Ann Zehr, March 25, 2011 5:05 PM  
 Guest blogger: Debra Viadero

The U.S. Departments of Justice and Education have put out the word today that they've reached a settlement with Arizona education officials in a dispute over the state's programs for English-language learners.

In letters mailed to state officials over the summer, federal civil rights officials said they had determined that some of the practices the state uses to identify and serve ELL students violate federal law. They cited two practices in particular: the surveys schools and districts give to parents to initially identify students to be tested for ELL services, and the process by which ELLs are reclassified as fluent in English.

The press release, issued late Friday afternoon by the U. S. D. E., focuses on the Home Language Survey. It notes that, before July 2009, the state used three questions to screen potential ELL students for testing. They were:

- "What is the primary language used in the home, regardless of the language spoken by the student?"
- "What is the language most often spoken by the student?"
- "What is the language that the student first acquired?"

In 2009, state officials changed the survey to ask only about a student's primary language. After the change, the number of ELL students being served across the state dropped by 33,000 from the previous year to 100,000, according to federal officials. They said the one-question survey was at least partly to blame

because it failed to identify eligible students.

Under the terms of the settlement, the state agreed to go back to using the three-question survey. State educators will also be required to refer a student for testing if a parent's response to any of these questions is in Spanish. The Arizona Department of Education also agreed to drop a teacher-referral process that federal officials said was unnecessarily delaying services to students.

Mary Ann Zehr has written extensively on this investigation, as well as on a court case known as *Horne v. Flores*, that also centers on the state's ELL programs. No doubt, she will weigh in with a more authoritative interpretation when she's back in the office.

**CORRECTION:** This post has been corrected to say that the reduction in the number of students identified after the change from three questions to one was 33,000, according to the U.S. Department of Education.



# 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.

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

## 2010 - 2011 NMABE BOARD

Emilia Vigil	<i>President</i>
Jesús Moncada	<i>President Elect</i>
Adán Estrada	<i>Vice President</i>
Dr. Loretta Salazar	<i>Secretary</i>
Javier Arellano	<i>Treasurer</i>
Mercedes Sandoval	<i>Parent Rep.</i>
Lorenzo Sánchez	<i>Dual Language Ed. of NM Rep.</i>
Rosalinda Carreón Altamirano	<i>So. Consortium</i>
(VACANT)	<i>No. Consortium</i>
Willard Zuni	<i>Pueblo Rep.</i>
Carline Murphy	<i>Navajo Rep.</i>
Clyde B. Vicente	<i>Apache Rep.</i>
Dr. Gladys Herrera Gurulé	<i>NMPED Rep.</i>

## STAFF

David Briseño	<i>Executive Director</i>
Mary Jean H. López	<i>Associate Director</i>

## 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

## ¿¿Need to pass Prueba??

**New Mexico Highlands University**  
**offers YOU—**

### PROGRAMA DE INMERSION EN ESPAÑOL

**Preparación para**  
**-Prueba-**  
**22 - 29 de junio, 2011**

*El programa consiste de clases en :*

<i>Lectura en el Contenido Escolar</i>	<i>Día y noche, noche y día... hasta las comidas...</i>
<i>Composición en el Contenido Escolar</i>	<i>presentaciones, canciones, videos, chistes, adivinanzas y más...</i>
<i>Ortografía y Acentuación</i>	<i>Te prometemos...¡¡ todí-ti-ti-to en español!!</i>
<i>Composición en el Escolar</i>	

*Para mayor información comuníquese con la Dra. Loretta Salazar al (505) 454-3535, lsalazar@nmhu.edu o con la Dra. Alice Menzor al (505) 426-2204, menzor\_alice@nmhu.edu*

## Educational Opportunities: IRC Announces Its Annual Dual U Summer Institute (DUSI)

The Illinois Resource Center (IRC) will offer a five-day institute in Santa Fe, New Mexico, from Sunday, June 12 to Friday, June 17, 2011 for teachers and administrators who are developing and implementing dual language, two-way immersion programs. This professional development opportunity is intended for all dual language stakeholders: administrators, teachers, parents and school board members.

This year, the format of the institute is new. All participants will select one of two strands:

- 1) Foundations of dual language education for teachers and administrators;
- 2) Focused Topic on Bilinguality: Standards, lesson design, assessment, research.

Guest Speakers are as follows:

- Dual Language Education of New Mexico (DLeNM) specialists will share their expertise in the area of literacy assessment in dual language programs;
- Dr. Sue Hopewell, BUENO Center, University of Colorado at Boulder. Dr. Hopewell is an expert on bilingual development and is a lead researcher for the Literacy Squared Research Project;
- Dr. Kim Potowski, University of Illinois at Chicago.

Continued on Page 4

# Sí

Eastern New Mexico University  
Summer Immersion Institute  
June 12 -19, 2011

- The Spanish Immersion Institute (Sí) at Eastern New Mexico University is an intensive immersion course in Spanish for Bilingual Education teachers who need to pass the New Mexico mandated language proficiency exam (*Prueba*) in order to receive endorsement.
- It is also a great opportunity for Spanish teachers to improve their skills.
- The Spanish language will be used as the medium of communication throughout the course, including instruction, entertainment and social conversation. Classes will focus on reading, writing, spelling, grammar, accent placement and formal Spanish.
- Because this is a 24-hour immersion program, residence on campus for the entire week is required.

*Ortografía ...Presentaciones culturales...El acento escrito ...Comprensión de lectura ...Comprensión auditiva y visual ...Composiciones...Cartas... Práctica en la computadora*

For information on how to register, please call the ENMU Registrar's Office at: 575.562.2175 or call toll free 1.800.537.5376 and ask for the Registrar.

Register for: SPAN 493 or 593, Intensive Spanish for the Bilingual Teacher AND BLED 493 or 593, Classroom Communication for the Bilingual Teacher.

The cost includes the opportunity to take "Prueba" on June 20, 2011, immediately after the Institute; six hours credit; a stay in the dorms for a week; all meals.

For more information, contact Geni Flores, 575.562.2765, geni.flores@enmu.edu or Dr. Vitelio Contreras, 575.562.2149 jose.contreras@enmu.edu

## 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Dual Language Conference



# La Cosecha 2011

November 16-19, 2011  
Albuquerque Convention Center  
Albuquerque, New Mexico



Downtown Albuquerque

Featured Performance



Niños Flamencos

### Featured Speakers

- Guadalupe Valdez
- Lilia Bartolome
- Elena Izquierdo
- Kathy Escamilla
- Virginia Collier
- Wayne Thomas
- Vincent Werito
- Leonard Baca
- Else Hamayan
- Ester Dejong
- Jennie DeGroat
- Jorge Torres
- Marjorie Meyers
- Sylvia Linan-Thompson
- Carlotta Penny Bird
- Karen Beeman

www.lacosecha.dlenm.org

## Innovations for English Learners

The National Clearinghouse of English Language Acquisition (NCELA) is offering a new online monthly series, "Innovations for English Learners", which will highlight innovative practices from the field that show promise for advancing the education of English learners (EL). The purpose of this series is for the community of EL educators to have a platform to exchange ideas and connect with other educators who have met similar challenges.

The first innovation is the Seal of Bilingual program in California, a recognition initiative which provides certificates to students who graduate from high school bilingual and biliterate.

NCELA welcomes submissions from schools, districts, universities or colleges, community or parent organizations, and students. Submissions will be reviewed by a panel of NCELA staff.

To submit an innovation, you must provide the following information:

- What is it? Describe your innovation with text of 300 words or less, a video of less than 5 minutes and/or a slide show of 15 slides or less;
- Who are you? What is the name of your organization? Where are you located? Who are your students?
- Describe the student population with whom this innovation has been used with which grade level, which language background; i.e., any information which will help other educators judge whether your innovation is likely to be useful in their setting.
- Where can I find more information? Provide information on

Continued on Page 4

**Continued from Page 1. "Anti-Immigration..."**

fewer people are fleeing accident scenes.

Somos Un Pueblo Unido is an organization founded in 1995 to protect and expand immigrants' rights in New Mexico. According to Somos Un Pueblo Unido, since

enactment of the NM law "83,000 immigrants who live, work and pay taxes in New Mexico have been able to pass the eye, written and road exams, buy insurance and register their vehicles legally. Law enforcement officials, DA's and judges have been able to keep track of immigrant driving records, traffic

violations, DWI's and outstanding warrants. Allowing immigrants to legally obtain drivers' licenses has decreased the demand for 'fake' identities and fraudulent documents."

Governor Susana Martinez plans to bring up the issue again at the Special Session being planned for the fall of 2011.

**Continued from Page 3, "Innovations..."**

where more information about this innovation can be found.

- Contact details: For NCELA staff use only (will not be circulated). Provide an e-mail address and telephone number where staff of NCELA can reach you.

The National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition, [www.ncela.gwu.edu](http://www.ncela.gwu.edu). For inquiries or submissions, please contact NCELA's Assistant Director for Professional Development, Keira Ballantyne, at [keira@gwu.edu](mailto:keira@gwu.edu).

**Continued from Page 1, "English Being Considered"**

of our citizens - especially young people - to learn new languages, which is key to succeeding in the global economy."

However, Rep. Steve Pearce, a Republican, issued a statement supporting English as the nation's official language. A spokesman, however, said the congressman "hadn't read the bill and couldn't say whether he would support it."

Ralph Arellanes, New Mexico Director for the League of United Latin American Citizens, said the legislation could hurt America's position in a global economy. "Are we going to try to dumb down our population to a level where we can only do business in the United States?" he asked.

**Continued from Page 3, "Educational Opportunities..."**

Dr. Potowski is an expert in the area of Spanish for Native Speakers and she has done extensive research on the uniqueness of Spanish in the United States .

- Karen Beeman, John Hilliard and Cheryl Urow of the IRC will be coordinating and teaching the two strands.

For further information, please go to [www.thecenterweb.org/irc](http://www.thecenterweb.org/irc), or contact Karen Beeman at [kbeeman@cntrmail.org](mailto:kbeeman@cntrmail.org), or Nora Sandoval at [nsandoval@thecenterweb.org](mailto:nsandoval@thecenterweb.org) or call (224) 366-8555.

**UNM College of Education's  
Spanish Summer Immersion Institute for  
Bilingual Teachers in Collaboration with New Mexico Public Education Department**

**WHEN:** June 6 -24, 2011

**WHERE:** Highland High School, Albuquerque, NM

**OFFERINGS:** Up to two classes can be taken (6 hrs, 3 credit hours each)

**COURSES:**

LLSS 455.002	<b><i>Teaching Spanish for Bilingual Classroom</i></b> M-F 1:00 – 3:45 (Designed to help teachers pass La Prueba)
LLSS 479/579.001	<b><i>La Enseñaza de la Lectura</i></b> M-F 9:00 – 11:45
LLSS 452/552.001	<b><i>Mexican History &amp; Culture for Social Studies Curriculum</i></b> M-F 1:00 - 3:45
LLSS 493/593	<b><i>La Enseñanza de la Ciencias Naturales</i></b> M-F 9:00 – 11:45 (@ Explora Museum)

All Courses will be taught in Spanish. For more information, please contact Dr. Rebecca Blum-Martinez at 277-0437 or [rebeccab@unm.edu](mailto:rebeccab@unm.edu), or see UNM summer 2011 schedule