



# El Noticiero

Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

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## Settling into the Director's Chair at PED's Bilingual Multicultural Education Bureau: Year-in-Review

By Dr. Icela Pelayo, Director  
Bilingual Multicultural Education Bureau (BMEB)

Icela Pelayo, Ph.D., has just completed her first year in the position of Director of PED's Bilingual Multicultural Education Bureau (BMEB). "We've made some progress at the Bilingual Multicultural Education Bureau over the course of the last year. I am very excited about moving forward with the important work that still needs to be done," says Dr. Pelayo.

One major accomplishment in the past year was re-forming together the State Bilingual Advisory Committee (SBAC), which has had a long-standing tradition of serving in an advisory capacity to the PED via BMEB and advocating for students served by the state's Bilingual Multicultural Education programs. The SBAC has statewide geographic representation as well as talented educators with a wide range of expertise. It has already met formally three times since its re-establishment in February. Subgroups within the committee have already begun doing work on some of the most pressing issues facing English Learners and students participating in Bilingual Multicultural Education programs.

Last Spring, BMEB collaborated with WIDA (World-class

Instructional Design and Assessment) to bring essential professional development training on how to analyze and in making effective use of student assessment data to make instructional and programming decisions for EL students. These 3-day training sessions were conducted regionally across the state in Albuquerque, Farmington and Las Cruces. All training sessions were filled to capacity and were well-received by participants.

PED has recently been awarded a \$1.2 million grant from the W. K. Kellogg Foundation to provide statewide teacher training and build the capacity of administrative leadership to address the academic language development and learning needs of culturally and linguistically diverse students, including English Learners (ELs) and students participating in Bilingual Multicultural Education programs. "We are very excited about the new Kellogg-funded project, *Academic Language Development for All* in New Mexico. By providing professional development that takes a culturally and linguistically Continued on Page 2 responsive approach to student learning,

## NMPED Supports SBAC Recommendation: PARCC Assessments in Spanish

On August 23, 2013, the New Mexico State Bilingual Advisory Committee (SBAC) and the Hispanic Education Advisory Committee (HEAC) received a letter from Secretary Designate Skandera regarding the development of PARCC assessments in languages other than English. PARCC is the acronym for the national standardized tests which will be used to assess student knowledge of the Common Core State Standards for Math and English by School Year 2014-2015.

Ms. Skandera is a member of PARCC's governing board and also serves on its Executive Committee. In her letter, she indicated she had already begun to advocate for the development of assessments in Spanish and to ensure their availability to other states within the PARCC Consortium. "New Mexico will continue to lead on the issue and to advocate for the widest range of accommodations for ELs, including Spanish language assessment."

The New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) is partnering with the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) and the Hispanic Education Coalition on the matter.

In a June 26, 2013 letter to the Secretary Designate, the SBAC recommended that New Mexico's PED support the development of assessments in languages other than English. The rationale for this request rested in NMPED's Strategic Plan which contains strategic levers, as well as the goals inherent within the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act (2004) for achieving bilingualism, biliteracy and the Common Core Standards.

If New Mexico is to achieve "real accountability and real results" (PED Lever 2), the SBAC believes that 20% of New Mexico's students who are English learners must be assessed in a language other than English. Results help inform programs while the outcomes speak to the return Continued on Page 3

teachers and administrators will receive essential training and support that will better enable them to ensure that all students can master the Common Core State Standards (CCSS),” states Dr. Pelayo. This statewide project also focuses on identifying schools and Bilingual Education programs that serve ELs and bilingual learners well, documenting best practices, adopting Spanish language development (SLD), Spanish language arts (SLA) and/or Spanish CCSS as well as adopting a uniform statewide Spanish language proficiency assessment. According to Dr. Pelayo, “Adopting SLD or SLA standards, along with an aligned uniform assessment, paves the way for implementing a statewide Bilingual/Biliteracy Seal in a powerful way. Becoming bilingual/biliterate and meeting all content area standards are the two statutory goals of the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act. Additionally, bilingualism and biliteracy are 21st-century skills, made even more salient with the shift towards more rigorous standards and assessment.”

Other important tasks completed over the last year: BMEB produced and presented both the SY 2010-2011 and SY 2011-2012 Annual Reports on Bilingual Multicultural Education to the State Legislature; collaborated with the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education (NMABE) to organize and celebrate Bilingual Education Day at the State Legislature; planned, facilitated and presented at several sessions at state-level conferences on Bilingual Education (NMABE) and dual language immersion (DLeNM); and conducted focused monitoring and technical assistance visits to districts implementing Bilingual Multicultural Education and Title III Programs.

Dr. Pelayo notes: “I look forward to the new school year and to working hard to support important instructional programming efforts vital for the academic success of our state’s ELs, bilingual learners, and culturally and linguistically diverse students.”

The BMEB is responsible for technical assistance, customer service, program monitoring and evaluation of all state-funded Bilingual Multicultural Education and Federally-funded Title III Programs. There are currently 55,000 English learners (ELs) in the state and 55,000 students participating in BME programs. Over three-quarters are students served in BME programs of culturally and linguistically diverse backgrounds and half of all students enrolled in BME programs are ELs.

**About the Bilingual Multicultural Education Bureau**

The PED’s Bilingual Multicultural Education Bureau (BMEB) works to ensure the implementation of the provisions of the state Bilingual Multicultural Education Act (2004) and Title III, English Language Acquisition (Elementary and Secondary Education Act, formerly NCLB 2001). The Bilingual Multicultural Education Bureau (BMEB) serves with effective leadership, timely customer service and relevant technical assistance to support districts and schools across the state of

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# Jemez Pueblo Grant Helps Preserve Towa Language and Culture

The community library in the Pueblo of Jemez will continue to help preserve the Towa language and Jemez Pueblo culture, traditions and knowledge through a grant that the Pueblo has received in the amount of \$143,000. The grant enables library staff acquire cultural resource materials and make them accessible to Jemez children, teens, adults and elders. These resources will serve as a foundation for cultural workshops and for creating original books in Towa that tell stories about local Jemez "heroes" and history. In addition, preschool children and their parents will participate in programs that promote literacy and school-readiness. In response to other growing needs, the library staff will also focus on special training topics for job seekers and they will create an environment that will encourage teens to visit the library not only for study, but for leisure reading as well.

For further information, contact Ms. Tamara Sandia, Librarian (575)834-9171, Tamara.Sandia@jemezpuablo.org



# El Noticiero

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**PUBLICATION SCHEDULE**

**No. 38:1 Fall 2013: October**  
(Back to School Edition)

**No. 38:2 Winter 2014: January**  
(Board News, Bilingual Education Day, Call to Action)

**No. 38:3 Spring 2014: April**  
(Spring Conference Edition)

**No. 38:4 Summer 2014: July**  
(Summer Activities)

**Continued from Page 1 - PARCC** on New Mexico's investment in Bilingual Multicultural Education (PED Lever 1).

The SBAC supports strong program accountability that builds student success, students who are well-prepared for the real world of the 21st century (PED Lever 3). Career and college preparation go beyond the boundaries of the United States into the international community and global marketplace. Bilingualism provides marketable 21st-century skills. For new learners of English, the Common Core assessments written in English can only measure the students' English proficiency; those assessments cannot provide a accurate measure of the students content knowledge and skills.

Developing Spanish assessments addresses the needs of many English learners in New Mexico, but not all. Native American children in Bilingual Education programs must attain the content standards through a specialized English language development approach and sometimes through "concept bridging" in the Native language. Also, not all languages are written; there are no tests published in these languages. Revitalization and preservation of native languages help strengthen and preserve tribal cultures and build cultural bonds between the children and their community. At the present time, PARCC's English Learner accommodations offer a useful assessment practice for Native populations and other language groups who are learning English as a second language in the schools of the state.

Over many years, the state of New Mexico has demonstrated exemplary leadership in promoting bilingualism as an intellectual asset for all students. NMABE continues to strongly advocate for authentic assessments in languages other than English. While we are encouraged by the position taken by Secretary Designate Skandera, we have yet to see any real movement in this area. We will continue to monitor this situation and keep our membership informed.

**Continued from Page 2 - BMEB**

New Mexico implementing Bilingual Multicultural Education and Title III Programs, addressing the academic learning and language needs of English learners (ELs), immigrant students and bilingual learners. To learn more about BMEB, visit <http://ped.state.nm.us/ped/BilingualIndex.html>

## 22nd Annual Back-To-School Family Institute

The 22nd Annual Back-To-School Family Institute, hosted by the Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations (CESDP), is scheduled for November 14-15th. This year's institute is being held in conjunction with their 15th Annual Youth Leadership Institute at Buffalo Thunder in Pojoaque, NM.

Strands for this year's institute include: Youth Leadership, Health and Wellness, NM History Across Cultures, Student Success, Bullying, Parent to Parent, Fatherhood, and School-Family Partnerships. For more information, including registration and submission of proposals, go to: <http://www.cesdp.nmhu.edu/backtoschool/backtoschool.html>

18th Annual Dual Language Conference  
November 6 - 9, 2013  
Albuquerque, New Mexico



# La Cosecha 2013

*Advancing Our Language and Culture  
the Common Core of Our Identity*

*Come share your experience and knowledge with over  
1,500 educators, parents, researchers and supporters  
from throughout the country as we celebrate the best of our  
multilingual and multicultural communities!*

*¡Cosechando lo mejor de nuestra comunidad bilingüe!*

**Featured Speakers Include:**

• Ofelia García	• Sylvia Celedón - Pattichis	• Susan Hopewell
• Else Hamayan	• Sandra Mercuri	• Nancy Cloud
• Elizabeth Howard	• Yvette Donado	• Lada Kratky
• Veronica Rivera	• Ka Papahana Kaiapuni Hawaii	• Christine Sims

**Registration Rate**  
**Regular Registration \$389**  
 Deadline — September 24, 2013  
 For more information, visit us online at  
<http://dlenm.org.lacosecha2013>  
 or scan the QR code with your phone.





La Cosecha is hosted by Dual Language Education of New Mexico  
1309 4th Street SW, Suite E\* Albuquerque, NM 87102  
[www.dlenm.org](http://www.dlenm.org)





## “Bilingual Education – Common to OUR Core”

**The New Mexico Association of Bilingual Education**  
**41<sup>st</sup> Annual Bilingual Education Conference**  
**Albuquerque, New Mexico**  
**April 23–26, 2014**