



# El Noticiero

Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

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## Language and Learning on the Border (Columbus NM)

Article By Dr. Kareen Borders (Regional Teaching Ambassador Fellow from the Peninsula School District in Gig Harbor, Washington) US Department of Education, January 7, 2013

The RESPECT Project, implementing a vision for transforming teaching and leading, is the result of hundreds of conversations with thousands of educators across the country. The U.S. Department of Education's Teaching Ambassador Fellows (TAFs) are continuing to talk with teachers throughout the country about the RESPECT Project, and have reached out to other important stakeholders as well. This month, the Fellows traveled to Arizona and New Mexico, including a visit by Kareen Borders, Toni Hull, and Cindy Apalinski with a group of stakeholders in Columbus, N.M. (Deming Public School District).

"Unique," "determined," "challenging," "amazing place" - these are just some of the phrases that parents, teachers, administrators and community members used to describe Columbus Elementary School in Columbus, N.M., during the RESPECT discussions last month.

A border school located three miles from the Mexican border, Columbus Elementary faces unique challenges that include students who are predominantly living in poverty and who are English language learners. The remoteness of the school from students' homes also places extra pressure on educators and families.

Despite the American promise of equal opportunity, children of

poverty and children of color often lack equal access to educational opportunities. Secretary Arne Duncan recently addressed the opportunity gap when he said, "In America, in 2012, children of color not only confront an achievement gap, they confront an opportunity gap that, too often, is unacceptably wide."

Yet, we [U.S. D.E.'s Teaching Ambassador Fellows], found Columbus Elementary to be overflowing with hope, happiness, academic rigor and a commitment to bicultural education.

For all of the real challenges to ensuring educational equity, we saw examples of culturally responsive education, rigorous classroom instruction and structures that are reducing the opportunity gap. Principal Hector Madrid affirmed that these children deserve the best education. "We do everything we can to make education possible for our students, since they are American citizens," he said.

Classes that include dual language instruction, heritage studies, and rigorous core classes, provide a holistic approach that includes recognition of the uniqueness of each student along with high expectations. Teachers plan together and present lessons in Spanish and English. During a math class visit, I observed first-graders working collaboratively on math problems, working

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## Isleta Pueblo: Strengthening Tewa Language Program Goal of New Governor

By Ungelbah Daniel-Davila  
Valencia County News-Bulletin  
December 25, 2012

Edward Paul Torres Sr., who will take over as Isleta Pueblo Governor on Jan. 1, 2013 says he has plenty of goals to work toward - "a whole page of them" - including strengthening the pueblo's language programs to help preserve its culture.

Torres, who was elected Governor during tribal elections on Nov. 24, has served four years as First Lieutenant Governor under current Gov. Frank Lujan.

Torres, 64, who is a traditional leader in the community, says his familiarity with current projects at the pueblo led him to run for Governor after Lujan chose not to run for re-election. Among the projects he wants to see through completion are amending the pueblo's tribal Constitution, rebuilding the Palace West Casino,

working on the center for elderly and on an assisted-living facility.

Changes to the Hard Rock Hotel and Casino are also anticipated, as the tribe has ended its franchise agreement with Hard Rock and expects to have their presence completely removed by June 2013. The tribe plans to introduce more Isleta-specific elements into the casino, creating a more family friendly, "quiet" atmosphere, said Torres.

Serving alongside the new Governor will be Antonio Chewiwi as First Lieutenant Governor, and Isidor Abeita as Second Lieutenant Governor. Chewiwi has served the last four years with Torres as Second Lieutenant Governor under Lujan and has a background in law enforcement.

Abeita, says Torres, is very involved with cultural preservation in the community, a top priority for the new Governor.

Torres says: "It's an ongoing project for the pueblo's traditional leaders to keep the pueblo's culture and

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## Deming: Language Programs Not Just for Spanish Speakers

Deming Headlight Report  
December 18, 2012

Dual language programs are not just geared toward helping non-English speakers learn the language. In Deming Public Schools, the programs help students learn English, but also help English speakers learn a second language while growing up.

Michael Chavez, Director of Bilingual Education, has set out to help the public understand what exactly he and the teachers of DPS hope to accomplish with the dual language courses offered for various grade levels. "Our dual language programs are for all kids," he said. "The goal of the dual language program is to develop bi-literate kids."

Chavez says there are two basic approaches for most of the children: one-way and two-way dual language immersion. The one-way approach is geared toward helping Spanish speakers learn English. The two-way method helps Spanish speakers to learn English, but the classes are taught in such a way that English-speaking students are immersed in an environment that fosters learning Spanish.

"The only difference between a single language track and a dual language track is that you're learning in two languages. The content we're responsible for teaching is still the same," he explained. "Even our text books are the same. The only difference is the content is in English and Spanish. It's not a watered-down program."

In other words, elementary school students whose native language is English can learn the same course material as English speakers in traditional programs, but with the added benefit of learning Spanish at a young age.

"We've worked hard to really change our Bilingual Education programs from a Transitional model - where we're trying to get the kids pushed out of the program, to a Dual Language model - where we're trying to hold the kids in and develop bi-literacy," Chavez said. "Our goal is to provide our Dual Language programs throughout K-12, so a child can go from Kindergarten all the way through 12th grade, and learning in both languages."

## Deming: District Teachers Help Develop National Dual Language Standards

Deming Headlight Report  
December 20, 2012

As part of the nation's movement to more rigorous educational standards for American students, new Spanish language standards and assessments are being developed through a partnership between the Illinois State Board of Education, World-Class Instructional Design and Assessment (WIDA), and the Center for Applied Linguistics.

On behalf of the WIDA Consortium, the Illinois State Board of Education applied for and was awarded an enhanced assessment grant to develop and implement: (1) academic Spanish language development standards for students in Pre-kindergarten through 12th grade, and (2) a valid Spanish language proficiency assessment based on those standards.

In addition, WIDA will develop a screening test to obtain baseline measurements of students' Spanish language proficiency for grades K-2. Deming Public Schools' teachers have been instrumental in the development of the Spanish language standards and assessment.

WIDA and CAL have been collaborating for the last two years in the research and development of the standards and assessment tools that will meet the expectations of this grant. During the 2010 Dual Language La Cosecha Conference in Santa Fe, Spanish Language Arts teachers from Deming Intermediate, Red Mountain, and Deming High School assisted in the development of the Spanish Academic Language Standards and Assessment (SALSA).

Annette Holguin, Martha Orosco, and former DHS teacher Christian Loredo provided WIDA officials with ideas on topics and language aspects that are different between Spanish and English.

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## El Noticiero

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### PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

**No. 37:1 Fall 2012: October**  
(Back to School Edition)

**No. 37:2 Winter 2013: January**  
(Board News, Bilingual Education Day,  
Call to Action)

**No. 37:3 Spring 2013: April**  
(Spring Conference Edition)

**No. 37:4 Summer 2013: July**  
(Summer Activities)

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one on one with the teacher and principal, and explaining their answers to each other.

When asked what she thought of her school, one first-grader responded, "I like it here. I get to learn and teach my friends. I'll show you." Those three simple sentences spoke volumes to me. She feels safe and nurtured in her school and quite simply likes it. She recognizes that she is learning and also has the opportunity to work collaboratively

**Continued from Page 1 - Isleta Pueblo**  
traditions intact."

"Strengthening Tewa language programs," Torres said "is a fundamental step in that mission. That's the most important - the language," said Torres. "We have to teach our younger kids, because that's our future.

**Continued from Page 3 - Dual Language Standards**

Most recently, Torres and Columbus Elementary Kindergarten teachers Sylvia Orquiz and Glenda Sanchez traveled to the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington D.C. to assist with the development of an assessment product, Prueba Optima del Desarrollo del Español Realizado (PODER).

As part of the quality control process, test materials go through two main reviews: for bias and sensitivity, and for content. Orquiz and Sanchez were presented with test graphics and items, test specifications and test procedures for the PODER Kindergarten test. Each section contained test items and graphics in the four language domains: Listening, Speaking, Writing and Reading.

with her peers-a valuable skill. She holds the belief that her learning is valuable and can and should be communicated to others.

Being a part of two cultures, two languages and two countries will give these children a unique grounding-one that definitely allows them to bring multiple perspectives to the table. One of the roundtable participants summed it up by saying:

"There's a lot of respect in Columbus. We are bi-national and bi-cultural."

In order to understand our culture, our way of living, our tradition, to understand it better, you need to understand the native language."

Torres, who said he's not a lifetime politician, was the Executive Director at the Isleta Housing Authority before being appointed First Lieutenant Governor by Gov. Lujan.

"When I was asked to be Lieutenant Governor, I thought about it. I thought to myself that I would be able to help more people by being in the tribal government, and that's how I started," said Torres.

According to Orquiz, "Our purpose was to review testing materials for Spanish language development for students in Kindergarten."

Through the use of the standards and assessments, educators will gain knowledge about academic Spanish language development and they will have a measure to monitor their students' progress. This, in turn, will allow teachers to shape instruction and develop curriculum to enable students to achieve high academic standards in Spanish.

"The standards and assessment will be applicable to any student receiving content area instruction in Spanish, regardless of the native language (Spanish or English) a child brings to the classroom," Orquiz added.

Sanchez participated in the item writing and content standard workshop. According to Sanchez, "The brainstorming session was intense." She collaborated with three other Kindergarten teachers, resulting in a language assessment that will be utilized for Kindergarten students throughout the United States. The panel worked collaboratively to ensure that test content and questions were unbiased, to provide all students equal opportunity in accurately being tested in oral language. Orquiz and Sanchez were the only teachers from New Mexico to participate in this project, and ALL expenses were covered by WIDA.

The PODER for Kindergarten will be released in the Spring of 2013.

**NOTE:** All above stories in this edition of El Noticiero were provided compliments of *the New Mexico Public School Facilities Authority*, PSFA Daily News Digest, [www.nmpsfa.org](http://www.nmpsfa.org), Barbara Riley, Editor · Email: [newsdigest@nmpsfa.org](mailto:newsdigest@nmpsfa.org)

## Enos Garcia Elementary, Taos: Readers to Leaders Read-a-Thon

The staff at Enos Garcia Elementary School are excited to announce their First Annual K-5 "Readers to Leaders" Read-a-thon. Enos Garcia Read-a-thon Team members have been working overtime to prepare for this event, in great hope of bringing up their school's New Mexico Based Assessment Scores in Reading, and, at the same time, motivating students to read.

Back in November, 2012, the idea of a Read-a-thon was brought up at a weekly Professional Learning Community meeting, where teachers agreed that it was a goal worth accomplishing. For the Read-a-thon to be a

success, the team went through many steps. First, the school library collection was reclassified according to "levels" based upon Accelerated Reader, which helped teachers and students to select books and take book quizzes based on each student's individual reading level. The Accelerated Reader program was chosen because it provides a fair measurement to determine winners at each grade level. The staff and parent volunteers worked to get the library ready for the event by classifying books by reading level during teacher prep times and on Saturdays. The team formed subcommittees to address

This recognition of the importance of multicultural perspectives is a step in the right direction to eliminate the opportunity gap.

As classes ended, I watched the children as they bounced out of class, skipped to the buses, laughed and chatted while swinging backpacks, to return home for the evening. In the morning, they will be welcomed again by teachers, principals and an entire educational community committed to closing their opportunity gap.

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## Enos Garcia Elementary, Taos: Readers to Leaders Read-a-Thon

community outreach, awards and incentives, media outreach and reading measurement groups.

The Read-a-thon will begin on Friday, January 25, 2013, with an inspirational pep rally. Competition will begin on Monday, January 28, 2013 and end on Wednesday, February 27, 2013. Winners will be announced on Friday, March 1, 2013.

Community leaders will be speaking at the introduction and final assembly program. Prizes will include bicycles, Kindles (computer books), classroom pizza parties and books.



The  
New Mexico Association  
for  
Bilingual Education

# NMABE's 40th Annual State Bilingual Education Conference

Wednesday, April 24, 2013 3:00 P.M. - Saturday, April 27, 2013 3:00 P.M.  
Embassy Suites Hotel, 1000 Woodward Place NE, Albuquerque, NM

## Building On Our Legacy: Shaping the Future

*Construyendo nuestro legado: Formando nuestro futuro*

### Keynote Speakers

Dr. Gene  
Garcia



Dr. Garcia, a Professor Emeritus at Arizona State University (ASU), has published extensively in the area of language teaching and bilingual development, authoring or co-authoring over 200 articles and book chapters, along with 14 books and monographs.

Tina  
Deschenie



Tina Deschenie is a former NMABE Board member, author and strong advocate for Native American Indigenous Languages. She is the editor of AIHEC, the American Indian Higher Education Consortium magazine and has published articles in the Tribal College Journal.

### Registration

Register ONLINE at [www.regonline.com/nmabeconference](http://www.regonline.com/nmabeconference)

Early Bird Registration	\$ 299.00
Presenter Registration	185.00
One Day Registration	225.00
Student Registration	65.00
Native Language Festival Registration	150.00
Vendor Registration	350.00
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Complimentary Vendor Registration Form  
(contact Rosie Gonzales-Rogers at [rosie@dlenm.org](mailto:rosie@dlenm.org))

### Workshop Strands

*Bilingual Education Practices*

*Dual Language*

*ESL*

*Native American Issues in  
Bilingual Education*

*Administration*

*Spanish Content/Instruction  
Through the Fine Arts*

*Wellness*

*American Sign Language*

### Special Events

*President's Reception*

*Native Language Festival*

*Student Entertainment*

*Publishers' Exhibits*

*Hall of Fame Awards Banquet*

#### Room Reservations

Make your reservations at the Embassy as we will again be competing for rooms with the 2013 Gathering of Nations. When you make your reservations, make sure you let them know that you are reserving rooms for the NMABE State Bilingual Conference. Phone: 505-245-7100

For more information contact David Briseño at [nmabe@suddenlink.net](mailto:nmabe@suddenlink.net).