



# El Noticiero

Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

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The Honorable Representative Rick Miera addresses the audience at the NMABE Presidents' Reception. (Photo by DLeNM)

## We Celebrate the Seal!

Legislators, Bilingual Education pioneers, NMABE Board members and past-Presidents, DLeNM, Enlace-NM, the CESDP, university professors, invitees, Native American leaders, SBAC, HEAC, conference participants -- and many others too numerous to name -- gathered together to celebrate passage of HB 330, the State Seal of Bilingualism/Biliteracy at the NMABE Presidents' Reception for the annual State Conference.

The Honorable House Majority Leader, Representative Rick Miera (who sponsored the bill) joined the celebration along with his Chief of Staff Regis Pecos, Representative Tomás Salazar and Senator Michael Padilla. The passion, commitment and pride was palpable!

How very important this bill is for a state like New Mexico, a state with approximately a 70 percent majority-minority population of culturally and linguistically diverse students; a state that leads the country in offering Bilingual/Dual Language Education programs for students in districts that participate; a state whose indigenous populations continue to retain and develop their home languages and cultures through Bilingual Education in the schools and in Chapter houses, tribal organizations and other programs in the local communities.

Seal pioneer and retired teacher Carlos Chávez, along with colleagues, developed the process for Continued on Page 3

## Gadsden Student Wins Spelling Bee Two Years in a Row!

Andrés Arreola, a seventh-grade student from Santa Teresa Middle School (Gadsden) took the First Place award in the NMABE Annual State Spanish Spelling Bee, held on April



NMABE Annual State Spanish Spelling Bee Winners, Bee Organizers and Santillana sponsor

12 at the National Hispanic Cultural Center in Albuquerque. Second Place winner was seventh-grader Sergio Cris Morales of Los Lunas Middle School. Ernesto Castillo, a sixth-grade student from Lynn Middle School (Las

Cruces) and Third Place winner, was no stranger to the event: he took home the Second Place title last year.

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The Fourth Place winner was Alexis Gutiérrez, a sixth-grader (Hagerman Municipal Schools), and in Fifth Place was Nadia Leanos, a fifth-grade student from the Deming Public Schools.

Senator Howie Morales (District 28 from Catron, Grant & Socorro counties) was present and greeted parents and Bilingual Education school program sponsors. After stepping off stage, he spoke to each and every student waiting in the wings to compete.

The Bee is a prime public school event for the State of New Mexico's Bilingual Education program students. Students from 37 districts and charter schools traveled to Albuquerque for the event. Continued on Page 4



Adrian Sandoval, Santillana; Dr. Sandra Rodríguez, NMPED; First-Place Winner Andrés Arreola; David Briseño and Rosalinda Carreón Altamirano, NMABE

# NMABE Hall of Fame Banquet Honors Dedicated Bilingual Education Leaders

Radmilla Cody, one of the Keynote speakers for the Annual Conference, opened up the annual Hall of Fame Banquet on Friday evening, April 24th. At this event, NMABE recognizes individuals and/or organizations who have made significant contributions to Bilingual Education in New Mexico. It is also the time when NMABE's outgoing President, Dr. Gladys Herrera Gurulé, passes the gavel on to its incoming President, Nana Encinias. Gladys shared some passionate parting words with all, and reminded everyone to bring one additional colleague to NMABE 2015.

## The Teófila Trujillo Award

*This award recognizes efforts to inform, involve and deepen parents' understanding of the importance of language and culture in the curriculum.*

The award went to the **Jémez Language Team**. The goal of these incredible folks has been to teach their language to Native children and to preserve their Towa language. The four awardees -- **Eva Panana, Margaret Shendo, Rufina Toledo and Lucy Waquie** -- shared the history of their work with the Jémez youth over the years.



Rufina Toledo and Maureen Olson, NMABE Apache Rep.

Continued on Page 3

# Native American Language and Culture Festival Integral to NMABE Conference



Fernando Cellicion

The Native American Language and Culture Festival celebrated its twelfth year at the NMABE Annual Conference. As an integral part of the professional activities, this year the Festival switched from its previous competitive style to a true celebration of the languages and cultures of the Native American people of the state. Emcee and NMABE Pueblo Board Representative Teri Fraizer guided the audience through the program, taking time to highlight accomplishments and leadership among the multiple Native Program and Language representatives present in the audience.

Keynote Speaker Radmilla Cody opened the Festival by mesmerizing the audience -- adults and students alike -- with her passionate, inspiring words. Ms. Cody had the same effect with her words

Continued on Page 4

## 2014 New Board Members for NMABE

David Briseño, Executive Director for NMABE introduced the organization's new Board members to participants at the 41st State Bilingual Education Conference proceedings. These individuals begin their terms in July:

- **Victoria Tafoya**, Bilingual Education and Indian Education Director for the Rio Rancho Public Schools, will serve as NMABE's President Elect. Over a three-year period, Victoria will serve as President Elect, President and, finally, as Past President.
- **María Escareño**, from the Deming Public Schools, will serve as Treasurer and for a two-year term.



# 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.

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## 2013- 2014 NMABE BOARD

Dr. Gladys Herrera Gurulé	<i>President</i>
Nana Encinias	<i>President-Elect</i>
Florence Acque	<i>Past President</i>
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Teri Fraizer	<i>Pueblo Rep.</i>
Louise Benally	<i>Navajo Rep.</i>
Maureen Olson	<i>Apache Rep.</i>

## STAFF

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

## PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

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

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

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

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

Continued from Page 2 - Awards

**The Matías L. Chacón Award**

This award, named in honor of the late State Senator, is awarded to recognize a New Mexican who has made a significant contribution at the state level to Bilingual Education.

The first recipient of this prestigious award, **Dr. Tina Deschenie**, is Provost at Navajo Technical University. She has worked in many capacities to promote and preserve the Navajo language and culture among the children served by schools of the state, always advocating for Bilingual Education and bilingual educators for many years.



Louise Benally, NMABE Navajo Rep. and Tina Deschenie

She says that her years of work with Navajo language teachers were some of the best in her educational career.

Deschenie is a member of the Board for the Navajo Studies Conference, president of the Diné Language Teachers Association, and she volunteers on the NM Indian Education Advisory Council. She has served on the Farmington Intertribal Indian Organization and the CCSD 20-Year Diné Language Revitalization Committee. Deschenie is also a past Editor of the Tribal College Journal.

The second recipient of the Matías L. Chacón Award, **Dr. Loretta Salazar**, is an Emeritus Associate Professor of Education at New Mexico Highlands University. Her 40-year career as a professional educator includes public and private classroom teaching and university-level teacher preparation in Bilingual Education and TESOL. She has also worked internationally, preparing New Mexico teachers in Spanish in Granada, Spain and in Veracruz and Oaxaca, Mexico, and on a technical assistance team with the University of New Mexico and the United States Agency for International Development in El Salvador. She continues to participate as a judge at NMABE's State and Na-

tional Spanish Spelling Bees, coordinate NMHU's Spanish Immersion Institutes, and is a member of the State Bilingual Advisory Committee.



Dr. Loretta Salazar and NMABE No. Consortium Rep. Rose Martínez

**The Joseph M. Montoya Award**

Named in honor of the late Senator Joseph M. Montoya, this award recognizes a New Mexican who has made a significant contribution at the national level to Bilingual Education.

The award was given to Lieutenant Governor **Kevin Shendo** of Jémez Pueblo. His secular government position carries out the duties and responsibilities of the sovereign nation of Jémez. As its Education Director over the years, he has overseen the Jémez Early-Childhood Program, the Jémez Community Library, the Education Services Center, and school operations.



Teri Fraizer, NMABE Pueblo Rep. and Kevin Shendo

As an education leader, he worked to strengthen collaborative working relationships among the tribe, the San Diego Riverside Charter School, the Jémez Day School, Jémez Valley Public Schools and the Walatowa Charter High School. As a defender of the Towa language and culture, he recently authored a number of articles about his Pueblo people for the *Education Week* special magazine, "Education in Indian Country."

**The Ben Luján Lifetime Achievement Award**

This is NMABE's newest award. It is named after the late Speaker of the

House, **Rep. Ben Luján**, who served with distinction as one of New Mexico's longest-serving legislators. As the Speaker ascended to become of the most powerful in the state and in the state's history, he became equally more humble, passionate and caring. Often fondly referred to as the "champion of the people," his ability to be accessible to all was one of his hallmarks. He was open to the ideas of people, especially educators, and developed a trust and confidence in them, which in turn, created an extraordinarily profound partnership. As a staunch supporter for education, Speaker Luján led the efforts over the years to sustain the funding for education. He supported the creation of the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act of 1973 and its second version, the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act of 2004.



Wilfred Eriacho and Florence Acque, NMABE Past President

The first recipient of this award, **Wilfred Eriacho**, from Zuni Pueblo, has dedicated his entire career to bettering the education of

Native American children and supporting the tribe's efforts to preserve and defend their native Zuni language and culture. He has served as a classroom teacher, as a Zuni language specialist, school principal and in

**Continued on Page 4**  
**Continued from Page 1 - Seal** the very first Bilingual Seal in the Albuquerque Public Schools. He spoke about all the trials, tribulations and triumphs necessary to attain this significant marker for his students. Above all, "high levels of proficiency and achievement in all four language skills in two languages merits recognition, and our students continue to strive to attain the Seal." said Chávez.

The legislation calls for the creation of a statewide task force to develop the criteria for the Seal, under the direction of the NM Bilingual Education Bureau.

**Continued from Page 2 - Festival** — for the 450 conference participants during her Keynote the previous day at the Friday General Session. She is a tremendous role model for the youth.

Among the presenters were students from the University of New Mexico's Navajo Language Program. They shared some of the work they were doing on a Media Project as well as their writings on healthy eating -- all done in the Navajo Language. Miyamura High School students from the Gallup McKinley Schools presented a Basket Dance.

Fernando Cellicion, world-known Native American flutist from Zuni Pueblo, was in town for the Pow Wow, stopped

by and shared some of his beautiful music with the audience.

It was, indeed, a great day! Prepare your group(s) for their opportunity to showcase talents related to culture and language for next year...We'll see you then!



The Basket Dancers

**Continued from Page 3 - Awards** — various district administrative capacities. "I have always placed the education of our Community's young people foremost in my personal and professional work efforts, as well as in assisting educational leaders to improve our school district's educational programs."

An expert in the Zuni language, Wilfred helped standardize the orthography of Zuni, trained five Zuni-speaking community members to read and write Zuni so they could work in the bilingual program in the schools, developed Zuni curriculum materials, and was directly involved in developing over 100 Zuni culturally-relevant books and charts. He is the Official Interpreter for the Zuni Tribal Council. He was involved in the development of the tribe's original Constitution. Mr. Eriacho is the leader in one of the six Religious Kivas since the winter of 1985. This is a life-time position.

The second recipient of this award, **State Representative Rick Miera**, began his twenty-year career at the University of New Mexico, where he served as the Coordinator of the Drug/Alcohol Program at the Department of Psychiatry of the UNM Medical School

Upon leaving the University of New Mexico in 1992, Rick continued his work as a national and international consultant in the area of drug abuse and drug prevention program development, management and training. Rep. Miera received an honorary Doctorate from the College of Santa Fe in 2006.

Rick Miera has a long history of local political involvement and is currently serving his 12th term as the State Representative for District 11 (Albuquerque, NM). As a Representative,

Mr. Miera is currently the House Majority Leader, Vice Chair of the Legislative Education Study Committee and a member of the Legislative Council, the Jobs Council and Lottery Scholarship Fund Work Group. He also actively participates in national organizations: Education Committee of National Conference of State Legislators, Education Commission of the States and the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials. Rep. Miera formerly served as the Co-Chair of the DWI

Oversight Committee, Chairman of the House Education Committee and Chairman of the House Labor and Human Resources Committee.

Representative Miera is nationally involved in educational equity, juvenile justice and health care access issues.

During this last Legislative Session (2014). Rep. Miera sponsored HB 330 this last Legislative Session: The Seal of Bilingualism/Biliteracy.



State Representative Rick Miera with his wife and parents

**Continued from Page 1 - Spelling Bee** — All five winners are now eligible to compete in the 3rd Annual Santillana, USA National Spanish Spelling Bee which will be held on Saturday, July

19, 2014 at the National Hispanic Cultural Center. For more information, please contact David Briseño, event Coordinator at 505-238-6812 or e-mail him at nmabe@suddenlink.net