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El Noticiero

Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

Lack of Direction and Leadership for Bilingual Education at NMPED Brings Continuing Dismay

The past three editions of NMABE's *El Noticiero* have described the long and arduous efforts by NMABE, Dual Language Education of New Mexico and the American Indian Language and Research Center at the University of New Mexico to have input into new directives in education on behalf of Hispanic, Native American and ELL students in the schools of New Mexico.

After providing testimony in January before the Senate Education committee, the above coalition of organizations met with Matt Montañó, Director of Educator Quality for NMPED, and requested specific opportunities for input on various new education initiatives. In his written response, he offered the coalition the opportunity to present research-based strategies for interventions with the ELL population at the Feb. 22, 2012 meeting of the Hispanic Education Advisory Council (HEAC).

The HEAC is mandated in the Hispanic Education Act to advise NMPED on how to improve academic achievement for Hispanic students. Four of its fifteen appointed members are knowledgeable, well-recognized and well-respected leaders in state and national circles regarding the education of Hispanics, Native Americans and English learners. They are: David Briseño, Executive Director of NMABE; David Rogers, Executive Director of Dual Language Education of New Mexico (DLENM); Dr. Julia Rosa Lopez Emslie, retired Professor of Bilingual Education at Eastern New Mexico University; and Dr. Patricia Latham, former Specialist with the Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations, a member of the State Literacy Team and Adjunct Professor of Bilingual Education at New Mexico Highlands University.

Members of the coalition gave a presentation to the council on research findings about best practices for instruction and strategies for interventions for ELLs, as well as the enriched academic outcomes possible for students in high quality dual-language immersion programs. (Collier and Thomas) NMABE and coalition members were pleased to have an opportunity to share successful teaching and learning practices. However, this is only a beginning. A short one-hour presentation is certainly not sufficient as the NMPED moves forward with its initiatives.

Continuing concerns revolve around the following:

1. The position of Director of Bilingual Education remains vacant, without a single specialist employed in the Bilingual Multicultural Education Bureau
2. There is no one appointed as Assistant Secretary of Indian Education. Acting Director Sandra Freeland and her assistant Vern Bia from the Gallup office are staffing the office for the time being. All the proactive work done over the years with tribes stands still, and direct tribal consultation with New Mexico Indian nations continues to be ignored.
3. No action has been taken to appoint a State Bilingual Advisory Committee, although NMPED refers to it publicly and in documents as "active" and as "providing input". It is mentioned in the approved NCLB waiver, and as of this writing, the committee still does not exist.

Clearly, New Mexico Hispanics and Native Americans are not within the planning purview of Secretary-Designate and her team of outsiders. In the long history — **Continued on Page 2**

Florence Acque Appointed NMABE President-Elect

Adrian Sandoval, NMABE President-Elect for the current year resigned earlier this year after he accepted a position with Santillana Publishing Company. In accordance with the NMABE bylaws, a vacancy among officers filled by a vote by the Board.

In a unanimous vote, the Board appointed Florence Acque of Zuni Public Schools to fill the position. This is the first time NMABE has elected a Native American woman to lead the organization.

NMABE extends its congratulations to Florence and looks forward to her capable leadership. Her election creates a vacancy for the Pueblo representative on the Board.



Rosalinda Carreón-Altamirano Named for Prestigious NEA National Award

Rosalinda Carreón-Altamirano will be receiving the 2012 NEA George I. Sánchez Human & Civil Rights Award for her career-long advocacy for English Language Learners and Bilingual Education.

The award is named after native New Mexican and former state president of NEA-NM (1935), George I. Sánchez (1906-1972), who is known worldwide for his advocacy, research and writings on behalf of Hispanic and Native American children's education.

Rosalinda will be recognized at the annual NEA Human and Civil Rights Awards Dinner on July 1, 2012 in Washington, D.C. The George I. Sánchez award is one of ten awards that NEA presents annually.

Rosalinda is an NEA-Las Cruces member and career-long advocate for English Language Learners. She received the NEA-NM Southwest Region Human and Civil Rights Award in 2009 and the NEA-NM Human and Civil Rights Award in 2010. A Bilingual Educator for 36 years, she currently works as the elementary Bilingual Education Specialist for Las Cruces Public Schools. She has served as president of NMABE twice, is currently the president of the New Mexico Southern Consortium for Bilingual Education, and has been a member of the NMABE board since 2002.

Well done and well deserved, Rosalinda!

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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

Continued from Page 1

of legislative and policy leadership in these matters, this lack of interest/informed decision making is, at best, irresponsible and at worst, a violation of the civil rights of English learners.



El Noticiero

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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

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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

No. 36:1 Fall 2011: October
(Back to School Edition)

No. 36:2 Winter 2012: January
(Board News, Bilingual Education Day,
Call to Action)

No. 36:3 Spring 2012: April
(Spring Conference Edition)

No. 36:4 Summer 2012: July
(Summer Activities)
Monthly Inserts/Wraps with *Language Magazine*