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Vol. 36, No. 3.2

June 2012

El Noticiero

Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

David Briseño: New State Bilingual Education Director

During the General Session at the Alliance for Multilingual Multicultural Education-New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education State Conference (held in Albuquerque on April 25-28, 2012), David Briseño announced that he had accepted the position of Director of Bilingual Education at the New Mexico Public Education Department. The position has been vacant since July, 2011 when Dr. Gladys Herrera Gurulé resigned.

David is the first native New Mexico-born Hispanic to hold this position since the inception of the Bilingual Multicultural Education Act of 1973. David comes to the position with a wealth of experience in education and commitment to Bilingual Multicultural Education. Under his leadership as the Director of Federal Programs for the Clovis Schools, he instituted its premier Dual Language Immersion Program at La Casita Elementary. He retired from that position in 2009. An advocate for parent involvement, he has provided professional development across the Southwest. He has served as NMABE's Executive Director since 2001.

Mr. Briseño went through a series of interviews with key personnel at the NMPED. After his last meeting with Secretary-Designate Hanna Skandera during the conference, he decided to accept the position. As he spoke to the NMABE audience, he added, "We all know the many challenges facing Bilingual Education programs in New Mexico. I assure you that I will work to build high quality programs and to do so, I will hold us all accountable to do what is right for children." He received a standing ovation from the audience.

AMME-NMABE Conference Offers Multi-State Engagement

NMABE's 39th annual State Bilingual Education Conference was held in conjunction with the Alliance for Multilingual Multicultural Education at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Albuquerque on April 25-28, 2012. This combination brought participation not just from across New Mexico, but from across the nation. The conference theme, *A Unified Community Growing Together*, was captured across many presentations,



Dr. Chris Sims receives Joseph M. Montoya National Award.

demonstrating a common need across multiple communities to unify in both cause and action for better education opportunities. We sit on the precipice of change and reform; unless this reform includes best practices for all

ELLs, as well as for Hispanic and Native American students in general, the students will fall behind even further. As reported in the last four editions of *El Noticiero*, New Mexico continues to see a tremendous lack of regard for these populations in current reform efforts.

This conference was one of NMABE's most successful. Attendance exceeded 600 people. The innovative breakout sessions offered a wide perspective across the range of topics: pedagogy, culture, advocacy, language, and current issues in racism, ethnic studies, politics, court cases, etc. Keynote speakers -- Dr. Pedro Noguera, Marcela Díaz, Mary Jane Oatman-Wak Wak -- brought focus to real issues facing the nation regarding the education of English learners. Their messages honed in on what our students need to succeed, what is quality in instruction, and how and why we must advocate against anti-immigrant political movements that are becoming common in New Mexico, as they are across the country. Featured session presenters Dr. Wayne Thomas, Dr. Virginia Collier and Dr. Kathy Escamilla were welcomed by all. They emphasized research outcomes and

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findings from and advocacy for Dual Language programs, case studies on "quality of instruction" versus "language of instruction," and a Literacy Squared demonstration lesson directed towards English and Spanish literacy and language skills.

Every year, NMABE proudly honors individuals for their service to the children of New Mexico during its annual Hall of Fame Awards ceremony. This year, NMABE recognized Dr. Chris Sims, UNM Professor of Languages and



Fernando Martín receives Matías L. Chacón State Award



NMABE Special Recognition Awardees Rosalinda Carreón Altamirano (above) and Dr. Gladys Herrera Gurulé (photo on right)



ENLACE receives Teófila Trujillo Community Award

Altamirano, President of the Southern Consortium for Bilingual Education, 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 Alliance for Multilingual Multicultural Education created its first-ever Courage Award, recognizing the teachers from Tucson, Arizona who have stood up in defense of their ethnic studies classes, which were eliminated under a state initiative, SB 2281. At the current time, the community is fighting back against this action both in the courts and in the schools.

On Saturday, NMABE celebrated its annual Native American Language Festival, detailed on page 3 of this edition of *El Noticiero*.

Linguistics, as the recipient of the Joseph M. Montoya Award - for service at the national level; Fernando Martín, Director of the Spanish Resource Center at the National Hispanic Cultural Center, as the recipient of the Matías L. Chacón Award - for service at the state level; and the statewide collaborative organization, ENLACE, as the recipient of the Teófila Trujillo Award - for their work which has had direct impact on local communities and families. Additionally, NMABE recognized two individuals for their long-standing work in Bilingual Education in the state of New Mexico. NMABE recognized and thanked Dr. Gladys Herrera Gurulé, former Director of the Bilingual Multicultural Education Bureau, for her diligence and dedication to students, teachers and Bilingual Education programs throughout her tenure at the New Mexico Public Education Department. Rosalinda Carreón



Tucson teachers receive AMME Courage Award



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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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*

Native Language Festival is a Hit!

On Saturday, April 28, 2012, students and their parents filled the Embassy Suites Hotel for NMABE's annual Native Language Festival.



Tohachi Elementary students display the colors.



Tohachi Elementary Student Winners

Students opened the session with the display of the colors. Emilia Vigil, NMABE past president, welcomed the students, teachers, and families. Louise Benally, NMABE Navajo Representative, introduced Ms. Mary Jane Oatman-Wak Wak, the keynote speaker for the Opening Session. Ms. Wak Wak is an enrolled member of the Nez Perce Tribe who recently served as the President of the National Indian Education Association and who was appointed by President Obama to the National Advisory Council on Indian Education. Ms. Wak Wak involved the students by telling a creation story. Her message emphasized the importance of knowing "who we are" and being connected with others while honoring our heritage.

The competition began immediately after the Opening Session. The students did such good job! The teachers are to be commended for their hard work in preparing their students

for the competition. Parents must also be recognized, not only for their support for the competition, but also because they are essential in preserving the language and culture of their ancestors. One of the oral presentations had everyone in stitches with laughter. It was about a young man bringing home a girl to meet his parents. Although it was told in Navajo, we all still laughed because everyone else was laughing.

The students competed in Dance, Singing and Oral Presentation. The winners were:

Dance:

- 1st Place - Newcomb High School (Central Consolidated)
- 2nd Place - Newcomb Middle School (Central Consolidated)
- 3rd Place - Tsehootsooi Dine Bi'ol'ta' Middle School (Window Rock Unified)
- Honorable Mention - Tsehootsooi Dine Bi'ol'ta'K-4 (Window Rock Unified)

Singing:

- 1st Place - Tsehootsooi Dine Bi'ol'ta' Middle School (Window Rock Unified)
- 2nd Place - Tohatchi Elementary School (Gallup)
- 3rd Place - Tsehootsooi Dine Bi'ol'ta' K-4 (Window Rock Unified)
- Honorable Mention - Newcomb High School (Central Consolidated)



Emerson Tsipai with Miss Newcomb, Raeanna Begay

Oral Presentation:

- 1st Place - Tsehootsooi Dine Bi'ol'ta' Middle School (Window Rock Unified)
- 2nd Place - Tohatchi Elementary (Gallup)
- 3rd Place - Tsehootsooi Dine Bi'ol'ta' K-4 (Window Rock Unified)
- Honorable Mention - Newcomb High School, (Central Consolidated)

The Festival culminated with a luncheon, fashion show and presentation of the beautiful trophies by Carmen Moffat and staff from Gallup Schools. The trophies were donated by the Indian Education Committee of the Gallup Schools.

Special thanks goes out to Louise Benally and Carmen Moffat, from the Gallup Schools, Maureen Olson from the Dulce Schools, Flo Acque from the Zuni Schools and all the teachers, parents, judges and NMABE Board members who made the Festival a huge success. Special thanks also to the staff of Embassy Suites, who provided the wonderful facilities and luncheon for our conference.



First Place - Oral Presentation Tsehootsooi Dine Bi'ol'ta'



Winners from Tsehootsooi Dine Bi'ol'ta'



Chyenne Benally and Jade Foster



Jade Foster and Sahale James

The Second Annual National Spanish Spelling Bee



July 21, 2012

**The National Hispanic Cultural Center
Albuquerque, New Mexico**

Students

Teachers

Parents

Bilingual Educators

Administrators

Plan on attending!

The New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education (NMABE) along with the Alliance for Multilingual Multicultural Education (AMME) and Dual Language Education of New Mexico (DLENM), Bee sponsors and other organizers, invite you to the second annual National Spanish Spelling Bee Competition in Albuquerque, New Mexico.



For more information, contact NMABE Executive Director and AMME Board member David R. Briseño P. O. Box 5190 ... Clovis NM 88102-5190 ... www.nmabe.net ... Phone: 505-238-6812 ... Fax: 575-769-0742 ... Email: nmabe@suddenlink.net