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Vol. 36, No. 4.1

August 2012

El Noticiero

Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

A Message from NMABE President, Florence Acque

Keshshi! Ko'don dewanan a:deyaye?

Welcome to the 2012-13 school year! I wish you and your schools a year of high achievement rich with cultural experiences! The uniqueness of education in New Mexico is that it boasts diversity and an element of passion for the language and culture of our students!

As your New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education (NMABE) President, I want to encourage you to stay on top of the changes taking place in our educational system, and particularly, understanding how it will affect our students in New Mexico. As we continue our work educating our students, we must always be mindful of the national research that indicates how good programs produce academic success when the home language is a fundamental part of instruction along with English. We cannot allow changes that will take away our students' essential language and cultural foundation -- which we build upon for their success.

The work that you do on the front lines must not be ignored by any legislation that fails to recognize important components of teaching the unique children of our state. It is imperative that we stand up to justify the fact that being bilingual is an ASSET and not a hindrance to success. Bilingual minds ROCK!

NMABE's regional Bilingual Education Institutes this year will offer information about these changes. They will assist you with the transition to the Common Core Standards. We will provide opportunities for your questions to be answered as we implement this new initiative.

NMABE will continue to promote and advocate for bilingualism and biliteracy for our students in our schools. We will also continue to advocate for maintaining and developing native languages and cultures as our children become proficient in the English language. The students of New Mexico deserve to receive the respect that being bilingual offers.

It is my great pleasure to announce that the 39th Annual NMABE and 3rd Annual AMME Conference was a great success. It was awesome to have the two organizations come together to provide so many exciting experiences for participants in the break-out sessions and to feature outstanding keynote speakers. The NMABE Annual Native American Language Festival was another successful event at the conference -- it keeps getting better and better! On behalf of NMABE, I thank all those who participated in these activities, in any and every way that you did. It is always a pleasure to see everyone mingle as they learn together at our annual conference.

NMABE is proud and thankful for the support that participating districts provided for its Annual State Spanish Spelling Bee. By the time you read this, you will also know how our New Mexico Bee Champions fared in the Second Annual Santillana National Spanish Spelling Bee, to be held in late July in Albuquerque, NM. This is a powerful activity; we are proud to have hosted it for the last two years. The Bee fosters student achievement and academic excellence in the home language. It also shores up family involvement--it is a joy to watch entire families of competitors actively engaged as they reinforce their children's accomplishments.

NMABE seeks ways to expand our membership. Those of you who attended the conference in April are already members. One of the benefits of membership is our monthly newsletter, *El Noticiero*, which comes attached to Language Magazine, a premier publication dedicated to all aspects of language. Our newsletter keeps you informed of issues, professional development opportunities, and statewide actions in education. If you know of people who were unable to attend the conference, please encourage them to visit our website and become a NMABE member. The cost is minimal. Join us, as we continue to advocate for the needs of our bilingual children in this great state. You can find membership information on our website at www.nmabe.net.

I look forward to working with you in the coming year and I hope that we realize many successes and accomplishments for our students! I offer you the challenge that will reap amazing benefits for the future of the children of New Mexico.

Don k'ettsannishshi' dewanan a:deya'du!



Mark Your Calendars for NMABE's Annual Professional Development Activities in Your Area

Southern Institute
September 29, 2012. Las Cruces

Northeast Institute
October 20, 2012. Espanola
Conference Room, Santa Claran Hotel

Northwest Institute
Oct. 6, 2012. Grants
See details in the advertisement below.

Southeast Institute
October 12, 2012. Hobbs

More information will be forthcoming in the next edition of El Noticiero.



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*



3rd Annual NW Regional Bilingual Education Institute

Hosted by the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

"The Power of Native Languages - Yesterday,

Today & Tomorrow"

Saturday, October 6, 2012

Grants High School in Grants, NM

Forms available online at www.nmabe.net for Presenters

Exhibitors and Participant Registration online at www.acteva.com/go/nmabe

Registration: \$115.00 per person

Join us in reaffirming language education
in the Four Corners!

Featured Speaker:
Dr. Wayne Holm

Pioneer in Navajo Bilingual/Dual Language Education

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