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# El Noticiero

Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

## NMPED Selects Bilingual Education Director

Dr. Icela Pelayo began her job as the new Director of Bilingual Multicultural Education on August 31, 2012 at the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED). The position had been vacant since July of 2011. "I am honored to serve the students and families of New Mexico," said Dr. Pelayo. Her biographical material indicates her commitment to "ensuring New Mexico's students have access to high quality bilingual and multicultural instruction that increases academic achievement and educational outcomes, and promoting cultural and linguistic diversity as one of New Mexico's most valuable strengths and assets."

Dr. Icela Pelayo received her Ph.D. in Urban Education Policy from the Rossier School of Education at the University of Southern California, focusing on learning, instruction and policy in P-12. She completed her undergraduate studies in Spanish Language and Literature, and Political Economy of Industrial Societies at UC Berkeley.

Prior to pursuing doctoral studies at USC, Icela earned her M.A. in Elementary Education from Loyola Marymount University while serving as a public school teacher in South Los Angeles, where she worked with culturally and linguistically diverse students, including English language learners. As a

teacher leader, she collaborated with administrators, teachers and parents to foster authentic home-to-school connections and create lasting community partnerships.

Her research background includes the intersection of policy with respect to the instruction of English language learners, especially as these relate to teacher quality, culturally and linguistically responsive instruction, and professional development. Icela's most recent work focused on developing and implementing a model of culturally and linguistically responsive coaching and professional development with Bilingual Early Childhood educators working in a multicultural setting with English language learners.

NMABE welcomes Dr. Pelayo and looks forward to working with her as she comes to know and understand New Mexico's diverse student population, as well as the wide and flexible program offerings available under its current statute. NMABE thanks Marilyn Newton-Wright, Chief Administrative Assistant at the Bilingual Multicultural Education Bureau at the NMPED, for all she has done this past year to keep the program operational despite the complete lack of staff, as well as a director, for the Bureau.

## New Mexico Coalition Formalizes Work

In early December of 2012, a number of representatives from diverse organizations and also professionals concerned with Bilingual Multicultural Education in New Mexico came together to testify before the Legislative Education Study Committee (LESC) on "New Mexico's Majority/Minority Population." (See *El Noticiero*, Winter, 2012, Vol. 36, No. 2 at www.nmabe.net.) The coalition's major concern centered on the inaction by NMPED to hear the voices New Mexico's diverse communities as it developed new policies and direction for education.

The coalition met during the summer to begin to formalize its mission and strategic actions to advocate for equity and quality in education on behalf of New Mexico's unique linguistically- and culturally-diverse student population. Its

work includes:

- Developing both a short and long term advocacy agenda in collaboration with key legislators and legislative staff;
- Collaborating with legislators, policy makers, tribal leaders, educators and parents about how to invest in our students' linguistic and cultural assets through public education;
- Providing public forums on issues impacting language and culture;
- Mentoring leaders who recognize the importance of this mission in the improvement of educational programs.

NMABE will continue to inform the membership of actions of the coalition as they develop in future editions of *El Noticiero*.



# La Cosecha 2012

November 7-10, 2012  
 Santa Fe Convention Center & La Fonda Hotel  
 Santa Fe, New Mexico  
[www.lacosecha.dlenm.org](http://www.lacosecha.dlenm.org)



Santa Fe Convention Center



La Fonda Headquarter Hotel

Join us in historic Santa Fe, New Mexico, for the 17th Annual Dual Language Conference!  
 Come share your experience and knowledge, as we “harvest” the best  
 of our multilingual and multicultural communities!

### Featured Speakers Include:

- Pat Wolfe
- Alexis Romero
- Sylvia Celedón-Pattichis
- Kathy Escamilla
- Elena Izquierdo
- Kevin Shendo
- Paul Martínez
- Nancy Cloud
- Virginia Collier
- Wayne Thomas
- José Luis Orozco
- Regional Dual Language Teachers

**Regular Registration Rate \$389**

**Deadline —September 28, 2012**

**Friday and Saturday Special Rate \$245**

To register visit <http://dlenm.org/lacosecha/register>  
or scan the QR code with your phone.



*Cosechando lo mejor de nuestra comunidad bilingüe*



## 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)