



El Noticiero

Newsletter of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education

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Spring: May 2015

Hagerman Seventh Grader Wins the 22nd Annual NMABE State Spanish Spelling Bee

by David Briseño, Executive Director, NMABE

Five hours and 18 rounds after the competition began, Alexis Gutierrez, a seventh grader from Hagerman Middle School, was crowned champion of the 22nd Annual NMABE State Spanish Spelling Bee, sponsored by the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education, the National Hispanic Cultural Center, the Spanish Resource Center and Santillana USA.

Alexis and second place winner, María del Sol Nuñez Peña, a fifth grader from Chaparral Elementary School in the Gadsden Independent School District, battled it out for 4 rounds before María misspelled *náyade*. Alexis then stepped up to the microphone and very confidently spelled that word and then correctly spelled *bórax* to win the competition.

The third place winner was Savannah Higgins, an eighth grader from West Las Vegas Middle School (West Las Vegas Schools); in fourth place was Giovana Rodriguez, an eighth grader from Tibbetts Middle School Continued on Page 3.



Top Row (L-R): Antonio Caballero Javierre, Spanish Resource Center; Victoria Tafoya, NMABE; Mayte Villa, Spanish Resource Center; Vivian Juárez Mondragón, Mexican Consulate, Dr. Julia Rosa Lopez-Emslie (retired, ENMU); Dr. Loretta Salazar (retired, NMHU); Dr. Patricia MacGregor-Mendoza (Professor, NMSU); David Briseño, (Spelling Bee Coordinator)

Bottom Row (L-R): Kenia Portillo (5th Place); María del Sol Nuñez-Peña (2nd Place); Alexis Gutierrez (Champion); Savanna Higgins (3rd Place); Giovana Rodriguez (4th Place)

RRPS Named "District of Distinction" for American Indian Summer Academy

By Kim Vesely, RRPS Communication Officer

Rio Rancho Public Schools' (RRPS) American Indian Summer Academy Program and its partnerships with Native American parents have earned the district recognition as a "District of Distinction."

Districts of Distinction is a national recognition program created by *District Administration* Continued on Page 2.

ELL Teacher Preparation Act Outcome

Last month, *El Noticiero* (Spring: April Vol. 39 No. 3) reported on the legislative status of HB 373 (Rep. Javier Martínez and Tomás Salazar) and Senate Bill 470 (Senator William P. Soules), the English Language Learner Teacher Preparation Act, that would "establish, operate, expand and improve training programs for College of Education students or educational personnel who are or will be teaching English Language Learners."

While the bills themselves Continued on Page 3.

Revised NMTEACH Rubric Now Includes CLD and EL Students

The Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations (CESDP) and Dual Language Education of New Mexico (DLeNM) have partnered with the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) to revise the NMTEACH Teacher Evaluation Rubric. The State Bilingual Advisory Committee's (SBAC) EL Crosswalk document was used as the basis for the revision, together with extensive review and comment from educators across the state. The revised rubric now addresses Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (CLD) and English Learner (EL) students in New Mexico school communities.

Two pilot professional development events will take place in Albuquerque and Las Cruces to provide an opportunity for school leaders to review the revised NMTEACH Rubric, plan for next steps implementation, and access resources and support for evaluating teachers of EL and CLD students.

The revised NMTEACH Rubric is expected to be introduced during the summer of 2015. For more information about the upcoming professional development on the revised NMTEACH Rubric, please contact Cyndee at cgustke@nmhu.edu.

Continued from Page 1 — magazine to honor school districts that are leading the way with new ideas that work. The program recognizes innovative and established projects and initiatives that yield quantifiable benefits, and that could be replicated by other districts. Recognized projects improve student



Victoria Tafoya, Executive Director of Federal, Bilingual, & Native American Programs, RRPS, with students (left to right) Maria Thunder, Jordan Thunder, and Zikiah Montoya

outcomes, streamline operations or meet community needs. RRPS was one of 49 districts nationwide recognized in 2014, the inaugural year of the program.

You may view the Rio Rancho Public Schools' District Administration's online article at: <http://www.districtadministration.com/dod/awards/rio-rancho-public-schools-meeting-unique-educational-and-cultural-needs-students-partnership>.

The American Indian Summer Academy program was founded during the 2007-08 school year and was developed in

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El Noticiero

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PUBLICATION SCHEDULE

No. 39:1 Fall 2014: October
(Back-to-School Edition)

No. 39:2 Winter 2015: January
(Board News, Bilingual Education Day,

No. 39:3 Spring 2015: April
(Spring Conference Edition)

No. 39:4 Summer 2015 July
(Summer Activities)

Continued from Page 1 (Farmington Municipal Schools), and rounding out the top five was sixth grader Kenia Portillo, from La Academia Dolores Huerta in Las Cruces.

All five are now eligible to compete in the Fifth Annual Santillana USA National Spanish Spelling Bee, which will be held on Saturday, July 18, 2015 at the National Hispanic Cultural Center.

Continued from Page 2 partnership with the district's Native American Parent Advisory Council (NAPAC). During summer workshops, students participate in activities grounded in math, science and technology and weave native cultural elements into activities designed to develop problem solving and cognitive skills. Past workshops have focused on robotics, space science, health and wellness, mathematics in Native American architecture, the Rio Grande, native culture and arts, and making good choices. The program is designed to instill a sense of unity and community among urban native youth, along with providing an educational, cultural and enriching experience.

A survey taken after the 2012-13 session showed that over 80% of students feel prouder of their American Indian Heritage and 90% find the classes interesting. Longitudinal 4-year cohort graduation data shows an increase in Graduation Rates: The Class of 2011's graduation rate was 64.7% , but the Calss of 2013's graduation rate increased to 74.2%. Especially important to note is the Class of 2012; 86.3% of American Indian students graduated, exceeding the All Students 4-Year Graduation Cohort Rate of 78.8%.

In addition to the Academy, NAPAC is involved year-round in other activities that support American Indian Students, notably the Native American Powwow, held annually in April. This event, which is open to the public, is a day-long celebration including native foods, dances, and arts and crafts, which attracts hundreds of families from Rio Rancho and across the region.

Native American students in 2013-14 made up 6% of the Rio Rancho Public School student population, up from 4.5% in 2007. The number of students has increased over the years as families move toward urban areas in New Mexico. Currently, Native American students attending RRPS represent 18 of the 20 New Mexico tribes, and numerous American Indian tribes from throughout the country.

Continued from Page 1 did not make it to the Governor's office, the concept and some funding did make it via a Senate amendment of HB 2, that allocates \$100,000 to the Higher Education Department. "This amendment will articulate strategies, design program expansion, and will help refine a

WHILE THIS IS NOT EVERYTHING INITIALLY PROPOSED IN THE LEGISLATION, "IT IS QUITE A VICTORY ON A VERY SHORT TIMELINE." SAID TABEL CUBERO.

legislative initiative in a comprehensive fashion, using the framework of HB373." said Edward Tabet Cubero, Deputy Director of Dual Language Education of New Mexico.

While this is not everything initially proposed in the legislation, "It is quite a victory on a very short timeline." said Tabet Cubero. NMABE thanks the House and Senate sponsors of the bill and the efforts of many who worked tirelessly in bipartisan fashion to support it. Many thanks also go out to all who supported the bill by emailing committee members, speaking at committee meetings, testifying at hearings and supporting this collective effort on behalf of our state's minority-majority student population. Senator John Pinto sponsored the funding amendment to HB 2. "We must give special thanks to the efforts of Regis Pecos, former Chief of Staff for the House of Representatives and Chief Legislative Aide to Rep. Rick Miera, House Majority Leader in 2013-2014. Mr. Pecos was instrumental in providing the Bilingual Education community access to the legislative process, in guiding and mentoring us, and in drafting the HB2 amendment that was ultimately passed."



The Fifth Annual SANTILLANA National Spanish Spelling Bee

July 16 -18, 2015
ALBUQUERQUE, NM
NATIONAL HISPANIC CULTURAL CENTER



Plan on attending!

Students

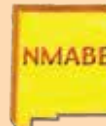
Teachers

Parents

Bilingual Educators

Administrators

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



For more information, contact NMABE Executive Director 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