

Message from the NABE President and Executive Director

NABE 2017/18 EXECUTIVE REPORT TO THE MEMBERSHIP

Introduction:

Dear NABE members, affiliates, sponsors, partners, supporters and friends, we are very honored, humbled and proud to celebrate our Forty-Seventh (47th) year in NABE's history, a very remarkable and historic achievement in the beautiful Land of Enchantment, Albuquerque, NM on March 1-3, 2018.

And it couldn't be done without the support of members like you. Throughout our long and tireless history, NABE has strived to be a national leader in professional development, legislative advocacy, social justice and unrelenting push for education opportunities and positive outcomes for our multilingual and multicultural community. NABE has strived to be inclusive, appreciating and valuing everyone's voice because everyone has something valuable to contribute and to say. NABE's guiding principle is that listening is paramount and that partnership and coalition building based upon mutual support, respect and trust is essential to our success.

From its inception over four decades ago, NABE has never shied away from the tough battles for social justice, equity and access, including taking a stand with other partners in support of the landmark supreme court case *Lau v Nichols*, passage of Title VII Bilingual Education Act, Title VII Fellows Program, Texas Bilingual Education Act, and strong advocacy for numerous other legislation—Passage of ECSA, Dreamers, DACA, Early Learners, National Seal of Biliteracy, “My Name, my Identity” international campaign, National Multilingual Advocacy Month, NABE Bilingual Research Journal (BRJ) and the NABE Journal of Research and Practice (NJRJ), etc.

The NABE Executive Board and staff has taken a solemn pledge to give our very best, to make every day count, to further the mission of NABE as a premier national and international professional education association in serving our bilingual/dual language immigrant students and to be an ardent advocate for their families as well as the thousands of educators who assist them every day. Since 1975, the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) has been a non-profit membership organization that works to advocate for educational equity and excellence for bilingual/multilingual students in a global society.

Looking back over the past twelve months, I am very pleased to share a few of the important accomplishments NABE and our very dedicated leadership team and staff have achieved. Although this past year has brought unprecedented challenges with a new administration in Washington, DC and its heighten political turmoil and unfavorable climate towards our schools and our multilingual and immigrant families, these political setbacks, pale in comparison to real, life changing, situations faced by our community caused by the many catastrophic events of nature suffered

by our families across the nation including Puerto Rico, Florida, Virgin Islands, California and Mexico, NABE takes solace in remembering the cries of hope and faith starting with, “¡Puerto Rico se Levanta!” Therefore, the accomplishments below clearly represent the work of the membership, Executive Board of Directors, and dedicated leadership of the staff.

2017/ 18 Accomplishments:

1. NABE has transformed and revitalized over the past 5 years from an organization constantly beset by financial crisis and leadership turmoil into a very stable, financially sound and progressive international education association with steady membership growth, strong coalition building and advocacy committed to excellence in teaching, pedagogy and research in Bilingual and Dual Language Education.
2. Maintained a strong and healthy financial budget and improved fiscal operations and costs efficiencies, including revenue enhancements and cost savings strategies.
3. Realized yearly increases in conference attendance and sponsorships through continuous networking, trust building and effective planning.
4. Maintained and expand strong international presence and participation of affiliates and partners.
5. Increased NABE’s visibility and participation on the international stage in China, Spain and Mexico.
6. NABE is recognized as a reinvigorated and revitalized organization with stronger coalition partners to advance and promote the interest of our multilingual community in Washington, DC and other state and international venues working in partnership with members and effective coalition partners such as the Hispanic Education Coalition (HEC), American Federation of Teachers (AFT), Joint National Committee for Languages and the National Language Council (JNCL) and TESOL International
7. Strengthen service to members by promoting affiliates, providing timely news coverage and highlighting the success of affiliates, including working at the state level when requested.
8. Serves in an advisory capacity to the Department of Education in its planning and implementation of events impacting the ELL community.
9. Work with the Department of Education, the Florida Governor and Florida State Education Commissioner as well as the Education Officials in Puerto Rico, the US Virgin Island and the State Superintendents of most affected districts by the displaced students affected by the hurricane.
10. Adopted a revised Bylaws that is more appropriate for the needs of members and published a new Affiliate Handbook and the NABE Weekly eNews brief.
11. Improved and expand the NABE website and social presence on the web.
12. Provide continuous staff training and improved site visits and conference negotiations for success and cost efficiencies.
13. Reactivation of the Corporate Advisory Council and appointment of a Chairperson

14. Conducted Dual Language training in China resulting in a Corporate MOU
15. Board Approved Agreement with Taylor and Francis for the publication of the NABE Journal of Research and Practice (NJRP) that will include a focus on international researchers and authors, establishing itself as a strong academic organization for the scholars in the area of bilingual education.
16. Developed a new Global Institute Initiative that will become a yearly feature at NABE's annual conferences including a focus of “..what it means to be bilingual” in the US, Europe, China, Asia and Mexico.
17. Adoption of Conference sites over the next 3 years: 2019—Orlando; 2020—Anaheim or the Pacific Northwest; 2021—Houston/San Antonio.
18. Designated DC as the Summer Symposium site for June 27-29, 2018
19. Designated dates in October for the development of the NABE 3-5 Year Strategic Plan
20. Designated a plan for NABE to become a strong instructional, research and evidence based repository on Bilingual Education in partnership with other institutions and renowned researchers.
21. Completion and publication of the national bilingual education standards for teacher training and education.

In conclusion, over the past five years NABE has worked with its coalition partners and affiliates in supporting and advocating on the following initiatives:

- Proposition 58—California Multilingual/Multiliterate Proposition (Yes)
- Celebrating April as National Multilingual Month via Congressional Legislation
- STEAM and Dual Language Education Forums in China, Spain and Mexico
- AFT Diversity and Equity Workshops
- AFT/Anti Hate Campaign in our schools
- AFT/Council on Children on Childcare and Education Funding
- HEC/ on the Passage of ESSA-Every Child Succeed Act
- Federal/State Waiver for Students of Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Island
- Provided Annual Dual Language Summer Symposium in Puerto Rico and the US in partnership with AGMUS
- Launched my Name, My Identity Campaign
- Supported the National Seal for Biliteracy
- JNCL-NCLIS and ACTFL participated in leading lobbying efforts for the Fulbright-Hays programs; Title VI of the Higher Education Act; The National Endowment for the Humanities; Title II of the Every Student Succeeds Act; The Native American Language Immersion programs under Title VI of the Every Student Succeeds Act
- Working with JNCL-NCLIS, TESOL, LULAC and the Florida Foreign Language Association to successfully organized and advocate against state laws equating coding and languages for admission to college.
- Assisted other coalition partners in the state of Michigan to advocate against the implementation of Michigan's English Only Law.

- NABE as a member of JNCL-NCLIS-ACTFL has supported and participated in the development of ideas for five national briefing papers to successfully secure reinstatement of funding for language programs with the new administration and Congress.

In summary, in the current strident political climate against English Language Learners, immigrants and bilingual education, NABE will continue to join partnership and coalitions to raise strong protest by any means necessary against policies that target and discriminate against our students and families. NABE will continue to resist inequities in language and culture and to defend and protect the rights of our students. NABE will continue to reach out across borders to connect with more international partners to promote multilingualism and multiliteracy in order to learn from each other and to become stronger collaborators and partners. The work that NABE does is for a greater good and must serve as a perpetual legacy of the trust and honor that our members, students, parents and community entrusted in us as NABE nears the dawn of a rich and bold historic mile stone of half a century—and beyond.

NABE **se levanta** con toda fuerza para nuestra diaspóra humana!

“¡Sí se puede!”