

## **NABE Celebrates its 2019 Annual Conference amid the Magic and Splendor of Disney Coronado Springs Resort in Orlando, FL**

NABE launched its 48<sup>th</sup> Annual International Bilingual Education Professional Development Conference on March 7, 2019 at the Disney Coronado Springs Resort, Orlando with a grand opening and ribbon cutting ceremony in the exhibit hall with more than 100 vendors, exhibitors, recruiters, 20 International Countries and 45 states representing close to 3,000 participants. The Conference was highlighted with a surprise visit by Mickey from Disney World that validated the Theme for this year's conference: **Experience the Magic – Biliteracy as a Global Imperative: Enriched Education for Empowerment, Equity and Excellence (E3)**. Many dignitaries, education and political leaders from Orange, Osceola, Polk, Volusia, Brevard, West Palm Beach, Miami Dade and Broward Counties were joined by the NABE Executive Board, including the local planning committee, domestic and international affiliate officers from Spain, Mexico, China, Uganda, Zimbabwe, Nigeria, the US Office of Education and the States Title III Directors. Ana Roca Castro, CEO/Founder of Genius Plaza USA and a NABE Diamond Sponsor, moderated the global panel of the education ministers of the three African nations (Uganda, Zimbabwe, Nigeria). This was an extraordinary first in NABE's history to have African Nations represented to share their engagement in bilingual education, technology and global economics. They also shared the first ever UN Global Compact Agreement on a common approach to international migration in all its dimensions.

Superintendent Alberto Carvalho of Miami Dade Public Schools, who is an internationally recognized, transformational instructional leader and 2014 Superintendent of the Year to go along with numerous national and international recognitions to his credit, with a big heart for kids, was the keynote speaker for the opening general session. The Superintendent greatly inspired and challenged the participants to change the "Impossible for kids into the Inevitable for their success" by sharing his personal life story on how as a undocumented, non-English speaker, who arrived in the US as a stowaway from Portugal, with very limited education and a poverty background, became the Superintendent of the 4<sup>th</sup> largest and most prestigious school district in the nation. Miami Dade, by all measures, is considered one of the most successful and progressive educational districts in the nation. The Superintendent received many standing ovations from the audience during his presentation. He was also awarded NABE's first ever-Superintendent Exemplary Leadership Award. In addition, the Board President of Miami Dade School District, Ms. Perla Tabares Hantman, also received the NABE Public Service Award in celebration of the International Women's Day to go along with her multiple contributions to excellence in education for children and families. During Superintendent Carvalho electrifying speech, the NABE Social Media blew up with hundreds of hits.

Another highly prominent personality from the Miami Dade Community and former NABE Board Member, Dr. Rosa Castro Feinberg was awarded the very coveted Mexican Government Prestigious Ohtli Award for her contributions and commitment to education and economic development opportunities for Mexican Citizens living in the US. Dr. Castro Feinberg is a former LULAC President and a strong advocate and champion for Bilingual Education, equity, access and opportunity for the Latino Community.

More than ever before, the atmosphere of the conference, from the opening day to the final day, was charged with electricity, excitement and enthusiasm on a global scale with many international presenters from across Europe and South America. Participants were excited to interact on a regular and daily basis with the vendors and exhibitors at breakfast and multiple receptions in the exhibit hall. There were many powerful and engaged learning and sharing opportunities and collaboration among the more than 300 featured and special sessions, including presentation from the Spain Affiliate and its members from Europe on Breakthroughs and Challenges in CLIL. The China delegation was also represented by one of its highest-ranking officials in Isabella Liu Xiuhua, Director General of the Pre-School Association of China. There were multiple performing arts presentations from students across Florida School Districts, including the more than 75 BESO Students leaders who blogged and provided a strong social media presence for the conference. Angela Pastore from Freedom High School in Orange County sang the National Anthem to a riveting and captivating audience who appreciated her tremendous and electrifying vocals. The Freedom High School JROTC Color Guard also presented the colors.

Other conference highlights included the NABE Corporate Advisory Council and Executive Board luncheon; Presidents Reception; Closing Dance; the Pre-Conference Institutes; School Site visits and one of the most successful Parent Institute Training Session with over 600 participants were among the most successful and well-attended events at the conference. The SIG, BRJ and NJRP advisory and research scholars added much intellectual depth to the conference. One of the conference highlights by far, was the annual student and teacher of the year Awards Luncheon with over 400 attendees. The NABE Bilingual Teacher of the Year Awardee received an all paid study abroad scholarship from the Government of Spain, a longtime NABE partner. Dr. Arnhilda Badia, President of the Jose Marti Foundation and also a NABE Leadership of the Year Awardee presented the NABE/Jose Marti Bilingual Teacher of the Year recipient with a five thousand dollars scholarship to pursue her doctorate degree in Second Language Acquisition.

NABE Executive Board, affiliates and staff, extends the highest level of thanks to everyone for being an integral part of the success of the NABE 2019 Conference and especially to the local planning committee who was among the best ever. For more information on the conference, please visit the NABE website to view the nostalgic memories and speeches.

**NABE invites its members and familia to participate in the 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Dual Language Symposium on June 27-29, 2019 at Ana G. Mendez University Carolina Campus in Puerto Rico. Please mark you calendars to come celebrate NABE's 49<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference in Las Vegas, NV on February 25-28 2020. NABE Early Bird Registration opens April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2019 and closes December 20<sup>th</sup>, 2019. NABE 2020 Proposal Submission Opens April 1<sup>st</sup> and Closes June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019.**

**“¡Sí se puede!**

**Margarita Pinkos, President  
Santiago Wood, Executive Director**