

Dear NABE Members and Friends,

Greetings to all! We have experienced some extraordinarily challenging times during the past year, but we continue to be moved by your resilience and confidence. We now clearly see the light at the end of the tunnel! So, what I feel in my heart today is a tremendous sense of encouragement and joy—a tremendous sense of opportunity to move forward toward a joyful and *brehtaking recovery*, as a pastor recently said. The experiences of this past year offer us the opportunity to rebuild, to be better, to find new pathways and to recreate ourselves as individuals and as a professional organization. Our plan is not simply to go back to who we were prior to 2020 but to make an astounding, an awe-inspiring and mind-blowing recovery by rebirthing ourselves to be better. We have to come out of this challenging experience better than we ever were! We can and we will, but we need you! Together, we can do it!

This is why the members of the NABE Board, a group of amazing individuals from throughout the U.S., along with an excellent staff, made the **bold** decision to move forward with planning a hybrid conference to celebrate NABE's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. While most professional organizations have continued to plan virtual conferences in 2021, NABE is confidently moving forward with a hybrid format—both face-to-face and virtual. Our conference theme, **“Honoring the Past, Treasuring the Present, and Shaping the Future”** provides us with a tremendous opportunity to begin recreating ourselves as a professional organization. So, I pray that many of you will join us face-to-face in Houston or virtually to celebrate 50 years of accomplishments and to begin exploring new pathways for NABE. I encourage you to register today and to register teachers and administrators to join us April 27<sup>th</sup> through April 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, Texas or online. The Hilton, serving as our NABE Headquarters during the conference, has access via skybridge to the convention Center and is following CleanStay Protocol.

NABE 2021 will have a group of outstanding speakers—Dr. Jim Cummins, opening keynoter, along with many other featured speakers including Dr. Steve Krashen, Dr. Diane August, Dr. Alma Flor Ada, Dr. Isabel Campoy, Dr. Joel Gomez, Dr. Eugene Garcia, Dr. Kathy Escamilla, colleagues from Spain—Dr. Virginia Vinuesa Benitez and Xavier Gisbert— and many other outstanding educators. Many of NABE's past presidents will be in attendance along with representative from many of our collaborators.

Please note that NABE is offering Texas teachers a \$100 discount off the on-site registration before March 31, 2021. NABE is also offering a deep discount to school districts who would like to provide their staff with virtual registrations. All attendees will have on-demand access to the conference for 60 days after initial broadcasting. Three of my children are teachers, so I know that teachers are anxious to participate in professional development opportunities. I hope that you will register your teachers and administrators! Check out details in this issue of NABE e-NEWS.

As the only national, non-profit professional organization dedicated to representing bilingual/multilingual students, and bilingual and dual language education professionals, NABE keeps English learners at the forefront of its work! Please join us so that we can continue to grow

and thrive, and advocate for your children, their families, and teachers! I hope to see you in Houston and look forward to many of you joining us virtually!

Take care and stay well,

Dr. Josefina (Josie) Villamil Tinajero