

**NABE in partnership with the Santa Clara County Office of Education supports April as the National Bilingual/Multilingual Learners Advocacy Month via Virtual Celebration for 2020**

**San Jose, CA – On April 30, under the leadership of former NABE President, Dr. Yee Wan, the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) and the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE) in partnership with Superintendent, Dr. Mary Ann Dewan, Executive Director Dr. Santiago Wood, Congressmembers Zoe Lofgren & Ro Khanna, Executive Director Shelly Spiegel-Coleman of Californian Together along with other political and civic leaders, teachers, administrators, parents, students, all participated in a Virtual Celebration in recognition of the 4<sup>th</sup> year of this very important and symbolic annual event.**

**This very prestigious and significant recognition was first established on April 18, 2016 on Capital Hill by Congressman Mike Honda under House Resolution 690 and it calls upon all of NABE's coalition partners, affiliates, and supporters to engage in purposeful actions to protect and keep the rights of language-minority Americans clearly in focus as states and communities move forward with educational reforms. NABE and its coalition partners remain very concerned about the crisis in teacher diversity for our burgeoning population of bilingual/multilingual dual language students with only 20 percent of the teaching force reflecting this diversity.**

**The National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE), along with the Santa Clara County Office of Education (SCCOE), and all coalition partners are making invaluable contributions nationally to advance educational equity, access and excellence for bilingual/multilingual English Learners, along with its affiliates and coalition partners and will collectively continue to advocate for resources to promote local teacher diversity, offering professional development opportunities, taking the My Name, My Identity Pledge: A Declaration of Self, advancing the National Seal of Biliteracy in every school district in the nation and advocating for high-quality bilingual/dual language education programs.**

**Considering that we live in a globally competitive economy in which all students will surely benefit from learning more than one language, it is vital that we redefine a well-rounded education for all students that include the opportunity to become bilingual or multilingual, in addition to literacy math, science, social studies and the arts. For Dual Language English learners in particular, the research is clear on the importance of effectively leveraging students' home language to support their success while learning English.**

**The NABE Board would like to sincerely thank former Congressperson Mike Honda for first championing this opportunity and for recognizing the more than 5 million Dual Language English Learners in this nation who bring multiple assets to schools and adds to the rich diversity among students. The NABE Board further commends Congresspersons Zoe Lofgren and Ro Khanna for their faithful and dedicated leadership and service to our nation and their commitment in championing this very important and memorable occasion via this year's Virtual Celebration.**

**NABE in partnership with the Santa Clara County Office of Education would like to sincerely thank all participants in this year's Virtual Celebration and for your inspirational comments, especially Shelly Spiegel-Coleman for her outstanding keynote address.**

**Dr. Yee Wan, chairperson of this year's event, stated that "your leadership, passion and advocacy for biliteracy and multilingualism have positively impacted the nearly five million multilingual learners in the United States and will continue to have an impact globally in today's world where our students are working, leading, and succeeding in an environment of constant innovation and connection from across the globe."**

**The recorded Virtual Celebration is posted online where more people can have access. Congressmembers Lofgren and Khanna offices will be preparing certificates of recognition of this event for NABE and the Santa Clara County Office of Education and sincerely thanks all of our partners for taking appropriate action to support**

**April as the “National Bilingual/Multilingual Learners Advocacy Month”**

**Here is the link to the event webpage:**

**<https://www.sccoe.org/mahe/mla/Pages/default.aspx>**

**“¡Sí se puede!”**

**Santiago Wood**