

NABE is proud to recognize a living legend among its celebrated members

It is very rare when a living individual is named in honor of a school, a building, monument or any type of community edifice. Nevertheless, such was the case for our very own Dr. Josefina Villamil Tinajero, an award-winning bilingual education student and Mexican-American bilingual educator and author who was recently named by the El Paso Independent School District for the name of the school consolidating Henderson Middle School and Clardy Elementary in South-Central El Paso. It is remarkable, in deed, that she was selected from a very distinguished field of candidates, clearly demonstrating the high level of respect, trust and admiration from the El Paso community where she has dedicated her life to improving the lives of so many young men and women to strive for educational excellence and achievement. Dr. Tinajero was born in the state of Chihuahua and lived in Ciudad Juárez until she was three before moving to El Paso, Texas. When Tinajero first started school, she didn't know how to speak English. She learned English at school, but retained her Spanish-speaking skills by using them at home.

Dr. Tinajero is a lifetime NABE member and currently serves as the National Treasurer and Co-Editor of the NABE Journal of Research and Practice (NJRP). She has also served as the President of the organization on a number of occasions. Dr. Tinajero has worked as a professor of bilingual education at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and also served as the dean of the college of education at UTEP. Her work and writings are focused on bilingual literacy, parent education and empowerment, "Educational Enhancement for Mothers and Daughters Program" bilingual teacher credentialing programs, research and practice in improving student outcomes in higher education. Dr. Tinajero is considered an international expert in bilingual education and bilingual teacher credentialing and has presented across the U.S. and Europe. She is a member of the EL Paso Women's Hall of Fame and numerous other education associations. Among her many distinguished recognitions, the one that has most represented the calling of her life is the coveted Mexican Government Ohtli Award. One of the highest civilian awards given to Mexican-Americans living in the U.S. who have dedicated their lives to helping Mexican American students succeed in high school and attend college. Dr. Tinajero was also awarded the distinguished "Texas Professor of the Year" Award by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. She is a Title VII Fellow, a bilingual teacher, English Learner immigrant, a living legend and inspirational role model for all of our students and communities. **The National Association for Bilingual Education Family proudly celebrates and honors our own Dr. Josefina Villamil Tinajero with a resounding, "¡Sí se puede!**