

NABE's 2020 Annual Organization and Strategic Planning Meeting

The NABE Executive Board held its annual organization and strategic planning meeting on July 3 via Virtual Zoom due to the COVID -19 Pandemic.

Following the oath of office for the newly elected board members: Dr. Margarita Machado-Casas - Western Region Representative; Dr. Sonia Soltero - Central Region Representative; Dr. Miriam Ebsworth - Eastern Region Representative; and Dr. Myrna Rasmussen – Central Region Representative (appointed to complete an unfinished term).

The full Board reconvened and voted to elect a new slate of Executive Officers to lead and conduct the business of the Association for the coming year (2020/2021) and to chart a strategic path with coalition partners and affiliates for the continued success and expansion of NABE's strategic and influential collaboration and advocacy reach on behalf of ELL. The newly elected Executive Board Officers are:

Dr. Josefina Villamil Tinajero – President

Dr. Margarita Pinkos – Vice President

Dr. Judith Sauri-Medina – Treasurer

Dr. Miriam Ebsworth – Secretary

NABE Board reaffirmed the 2021 Conference Theme: “Honoring the Past, Treasuring the Present, Shaping the Future.” Additionally, the board adopted a new 2021 Conference date of Wednesday, April 28 and Thursday, April 29 in a Hybrid format with limited face-to-face and a full Virtual Program. NABE will abide by all of the CDC Recommendations and communicate frequently with its membership, sponsors, affiliates and supporters. The Board also embraced and welcome the recommendations of the Presidents Planning Committee for NABE 2021Conference.

The national treasurer’s financial report was received and adopted outlining the operational budget for FY 20/21. NABE will continue establishing policy support for Dual Language Programs, including the Development of a “White Paper on ELL” with coalition partners that will be shared with both Presidential Campaigns. The Board reaffirmed its commitment to the NABE Strategic Plan, development of NABE’s dual language high quality professional development initiatives and expanding its international reach with other association’s partners and teacher leaders such as AFT, HACU, HEC, CAL, Policy Institute, and its domestic affiliates. In this time of serious health challenges with COVID -19, collaboration and partnerships are the key to delivering high quality

programs and services for all of our students, and especially the ELLs.

The Board has also reiterated the importance, engagement, and restructuring of NABE's Corporate Advisory Council (CAC) as well as the NABE Dual Language Advisory Council (NDLAC) with broader representation from the leading corporate partners and researchers in the field. The Board was very pleased to receive a report from staff on the very new and exciting DLVSI 2020 and Virtual education initiatives including the new online Learning Portal and the Digital Badge for Professional Development that NABE has recently launched this year and the update on Virtual Summer and Slow Institutes among some of the many new digital instructional initiatives and webcast examining how schools can meet English Learners needs during COVID 19 Pandemic.

The newly formulated board has laid out a very ambitious agenda including updating its Bylaws and the NABE National Dual Language Teacher Preparation Standards. Development of a strong bilingual teacher scholarship and research program with the BESO students for the NABE 2021 Annual Conference; completing the NABE Strategic Plan: "NABE Rise Up 2020": A Perfect Vision; and the National Leadership Institute work to engage the ELL community with a strong message of international

collaboration and the common goals of bilingualism for all students. The Board re-affirmed its commitment to the NABE-Puerto Rico Teacher Ambassador Program and pledged to work closely with the Puerto Rico Department of Education in a robust professional development Dual Language Program for teachers.

The Board was updated on last year's PR Ambassador Program and reminded that Dr. Anibal Munoz Claudio, Director of the English and Bilingual Education Programs for the PR Department of Education opened the program with a comprehensive study of Puerto Rico's bilingual education history. Other expert Dual Language educators included Cristina Alfaro, Sonia Soltero, Rebecca Blum Martinez and a leadership presentation by Lhisa Almashy. Also participating were policy makers, parent advocates and other dual language practitioners with exemplary programs from across the U.S. The U.S. Secretary of Education hosted a group of Dual Language Educators who attended the Symposium.

During the symposium, scholarships were awarded to teachers from Puerto Rico to attend NABE's 49th Conference in Las Vegas. Four full scholarships and two partial scholarships were awarded to teachers based on their application essay explaining their commitment to bilingual education programs in Puerto Rico.

The Executive Board of the National Association for Bilingual Education affirms its advocacy, commitment and unequivocal support to achieving the goals of our mission and to continue with the much needed and promising work solely for the benefit of our students, teachers, parents and community.

"¡Sí se puede!"

Dr. Josefina Villamil Tinajero, President

Dr. Santiago Wood, Executive Director