

NATIONAL SPANISH SPELLING BEE



Dr. Santiago Wood
Executive Director, NABE

June 20, 2018

Dear Dr. Wood,

Let me introduce myself. My name is Flora Sánchez and I have been a bilingual educator for 31 years. I had the honor of being selected as the NABE Bilingual Teacher of the Year in 2004. I have always been proud of this accomplishment and have been a supporter of NABE's mission and vision throughout my time as a bilingual educator. Now, I have retired from teaching, but I continue to try to give back to the field and to the children and families we serve.

One way that I am giving back is through my involvement with the National Spanish Spelling Bee. I have been asked to be the local chair of the National Spanish Spelling Bee's 2019 competition which will be held here in Colorado. I am so happy to be a part of this effort that recognizes the nation's top Spanish language spellers. I have attended the National Spanish Spelling Bee and seen the positive impact that it has on the contestants as well as their families. It is truly a heartwarming and moving thing to see how great an impact this event has on the contestants. In meeting and speaking to the educators who attended the event to support their students, I also learned what a huge positive impact it has had in school communities across the country. The students learn a lot in preparation for their local and state competitions as well as for the national event. The experience is truly a once in a lifetime event that, like my selection as Bilingual Teacher of the Year, I am sure they will hold dear for the rest of their lives.

But we only see a few of the students at the national event. There are hundreds, or thousands, of other students who also prepared for and competed in their own schools and districts across the country benefiting them and their academic growth. I have also seen the positive press that the event has had in our own state. The Colorado State Spanish Spelling Bee drew media attention from many outlets, print and television. That coverage honored the students and their families, but it also honored and increased the status of Spanish in our communities and state.

If you have not attended the National Spanish Spelling Bee I would like to invite you to join us in San Antonio, Texas on July 13-14, 2018 to witness the event first hand. I believe that NABE could be involved in this event and that the best way to understand its huge positive impact on the children and families that we both serve would be if you could attend the event and interact with the participants and their supporters. I also extend this invitation to NABE board members who might wish to attend.

Please let me know if you and one or more board members will be able to attend the event. The 13th is an orientation and practice round and the actual bee and awards dinner will be on the 14th. I really hope that you can be there. Please let me know if you can be there and we would be more than happy to sponsor your meal at the awards ceremony.

Muchas gracias y hasta pronto,

Flora Sánchez
Chair, 2019 NSSB