

NABE Appoints New Corporate Advisory Council Chair

The National Association for Bilingual Education Executive Board is very proud and fortunate to appoint Dr. Tomasita Ortiz, Chief Learning Officer for Ana G. Mendez University Ventures Inc., and a lifetime NABE member as the Chair of the new Corporate Advisory Council (CAC). Dr. Ortiz will head up an impressive group of business, education leaders and research scholars to provide advice and assistance to NABE's Executive Board of Directors so that the association's mission, programs, events and strategic plans are supported, advanced and realized. CAC members will also assist NABE and its network through financial and/or in-kind and programmatic support, grants, contracts and partnerships to strengthen and diversify NABE's financial capabilities and enhance research and professional development efforts in bilingual and dual language education. The Council will coordinate the creation and sustainment of enduring partnerships between NABE and corporations, businesses, foundations, Hispanic and other ethnic group employee associations, influential businesses, educational leaders and philanthropists to provide advise, advocacy and counsel, both as a group and individually, to NABE's President and senior staff to enhance NABE's public image and credibility with the business, educational and philanthropic community and other leaders at local, national and international levels. The Corporate Advisory Council is Co-Chaired by Dr. Abdin Noboa-Rios, a long time NABE member and international education business consultant. A partial list of members of the CAC includes distinguished education scholars, researchers and corporate partners such as Dr. Margarita Calderon, Sonia Soltero of DePaul University, Francisco Guajardo of UTRGV, Mercedes McCall of Center State Bank, Angel Toledo Lopez of SUAGM, and Silvia Dorta-Duque de Reyes of Benchmark, Courtney Eison of Hilton Worldwide. The CAC has had a couple of meetings and launched a very ambitious outline of actions including the (1) development of a strategic partnership to advance the educational achievement levels of English and dual language teachers and administrators need in their quest of offering

dual language education. (2) Escalate to a higher level the importance of bilingualism and biliteracy in all grade levels by doing a better job of portraying that bilingual education is not just for the primary grades, as specified in the preliminary report: *When More Mean Less*. (3) Develop and action agenda to address the findings and recommendations in the report. (4) Collaborate in the development of Dual Language Guiding Principles for Higher Education based on the recent revision to the K-12 document from Center of Applied Linguistics. (5) The NABE Special Interest Group: Dual Language in Higher Education needs to be strengthened by reaching out to higher education Educators and Administrators in USA, Mexico, Spain, China, Canada, and other countries whom are interested in bilingualism and biliteracy programs. (6) Launch a unified campaign with coalition partners and corporate organization on the topic of “Bilingualism for International Empowerment” to gather unified support from corporations for bilingual education and bilingualism. Another priority is to push for the Seal of Biliteracy at all the levels to promote respect for multilingualism at the national level with support from the corporate sector. The CAC will meet with the NABE Executive Board for a general planning meeting to determine its annual goals and objective with the board and the corporate community.