



News Release

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**NABE REAFFIRMS ITS COMMITMENT AND UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT TO OUR
BILINGUAL/MULTILINGUAL STUDENTS, TEACHERS, PARENTS AND COMMUNITY**

Washington – Since 1975, the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) has been a national non-profit, non-partisan, education membership organization in Washington, D.C. working to advocate for educational equity and excellence for bilingual/multilingual students in a global society.

NABE has over 20 national and international affiliates working to improve instructional practices for our nation's 4.7 million Dual Language and English Language Learners. NABE is committed to provide bilingual educators with more high-quality professional development opportunities; secure adequate funding for programs serving Bilingual/Multilinguals and English Learners; 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 students with only 20 percent of the teaching force reflecting this diversity.

During the week of February 22 – 25, NABE will be celebrating its 46th International Bilingual Education Conference in Dallas, TX. In this heightened and uncertain period of unrest and real concern in our nation, it is very fitting that our Conference theme is "Leadership for Equity and Excellence through Bilingualism and Bilingual Literacy." NABE is very excited to have the Secretary of Education of México and 5 other Secretaries of States within México as our Special VIPs along with other renowned international presenters and our three newest international affiliates from China, Spain and México City and more than 3,000 registered participants will also be joining us at this event.

During this transitory period while we await the new Secretary of Education, the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE), sincerely extends our warmest welcome to the new groups of immigrant and refugee students to America. We pledge our steadfast advocacy and support to all students and families regardless of their ethnicity, language, social economic background, gender, immigration status or religious belief. We urge the new administration and local school districts to work with our organization and our many affiliates as full partners to achieve educational equity, equitable access and equal opportunities for ALL of our students.

NABE view these students as amazing, gifted and talented assets in our classrooms who must be valued for what they bring into our schools. Our students don't want to be reminded of where they came from or how hard their lives began. They want to be shown that they can achieve and where they will end up as exceptional leaders. They want to hear that the potential of becoming multilingual, biliterate is a goal that can be achieved. They also want to hear that the backgrounds and experiences they bring to the classroom are valued and respected.

NABE urges everyone to view these students, their teachers, parents and communities as invaluable assets to this nation and to the world. It is imperative that these global and international skills and talents must be shared with the rest of their classmates while they learn English to become future scholars, leaders, and other professionals.

NABE and its partners will continue to advocate for resources to promote local teacher diversity, offering professional development opportunities, 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, all students will surely benefit from learning more than one language.

The Executive Board of the National Association for Bilingual Education affirms its commitment to achieving the goal of our mission and to continue with the much needed and promising work solely for the benefit of our students and their teachers.

Sincerely,

**Dr. Minh-Anh Hodge, Ed.D
President**

**Dr. Santiago Wood, Ed.D.
Executive Director**