



## **A HEARTFELT THANKS AND APPRECIATION**

We wish to thank the almost 3,000 educators and friends who convened at the Hilton Anatole in Dallas, Texas for the NABE 2017 International Annual Conference from February 21- 25, 2017. It was our best attended conference in the past 7 years. Your presence, participation, active engagement and willingness to forge connections made for a stimulating, instructive and productive learning experience. The NABE Executive Board and its staff are grateful for the many generous sponsors, partners, exhibitors, distinguished guest and dignitaries who contributed significantly to the enhancement of our resources and, more importantly, the intellectual dialogs and commitment to advocate for our bilingual/multicultural and immigrant students. Thank you, our stellar keynoters, featured speakers and presenters who empowered us with new ideas, knowledge, passion, energy, and turn-key strategies.

We would like to give a special shout-out to the 130+ BESO students and other volunteers who devoted their time and effort in ensuring that the conference run smoothly. We owe a huge debt to the local planning committee, without whose support this type of success would not have been possible. It was heartwarming to see the many wonderful entertainment offerings provided by the hundreds of local talented students. And, it was equally gratifying to observe a huge group of parents getting together on a Saturday to connect, learn, share ideas, and lift up their voices. As always, NABE's very own Nilda Aguirre, Deputy Executive Director/Conference Coordinator, and her team did a superb job linking everything together.

We were delighted to also welcome out international affiliates from China, Mexico and Spain. We appreciate our other partners who traveled a long way to join us from Argentina, Brazil, Guam, Palau and Thailand. The NABE 2017 conference attendees were truly an enlightened mix of the cultural and linguistic rainbow! We were, and are, empowered and united in our vision, solidarity and commitment! The hotel staff were courteous, helpful and took pride in showcasing the elegant and beautiful facilities. Thank you Hilton Anatole!

We salute this year's prestigious award recipients: Dr. Jose Escalante-Ruiz for the Ramon Santiago, Superintendent Jon Gundry and the Santa Clara County Office of Education for the NABE Leadership Award, and US Representative Roberto Alonzo for the OTHLI Mexican Government Award. To our pleasure, Representative Alonzo read a Resolution from the city of Dallas declaring the week of February 22<sup>nd</sup> as "NABE Bilingual Education Week." Superintendent Jon Gundry and his team thoughtfully brought the 3,000 My Name, My Identity buttons for all attendees to wear. We were thrilled to watch the three talented bilingual students, the two dedicated teachers and researchers walking across the stage to receive their award in each of their respective category. Congratulations, you are amazing.

All in all, NABE 2017 was a conference where practical wisdom, resources and ideas were shared but, above all, where passion and commitment to kids was reignited and validated. As demonstrated through our work during the past 46 years, NABE is proud to reaffirm our promise to advocate for all bilingual/multicultural students, regardless of their socioeconomic, linguistic, and ethnic backgrounds or their immigration status. They are our future leaders!

Again, thank you for being part of the NABE 2017 Conference. We hope you had enjoyed and appreciated the experience as much as we did. Please take a moment to provide your feedback so we can continue to improve the quality of future conferences. In addition, we look forward to your presence at the **3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Dual Language Summer Symposium on July 8-10<sup>th</sup> in Palm Beach County**. And, mark your calendar for **the NABE 2018 Conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico on March 1 - 3 with the Pre-Conference Institute starting on February 28**.

¡Sí se puede!

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