



MESSAGE FROM THE NABE IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT



In July of 2011 I assumed the presidency of NABE as one of the four elected officers. I am very pleased to have been able to serve in this capacity along with my other colleagues. On behalf of our Board of Directors, I am very pleased to provide our membership with a brief summary of our accomplishments over the past year. It was a very challenging and at the same time a very rewarding experience to serve as President. As a result of the interaction with many people and organizations involved in bilingual education and a board who puts the best interests of the children at the top of their agenda, we created a new NABE.

The year 2011-2012 was a truly important year for NABE in many regards. I am pleased to report that we made the turn and are in a strong fiscal condition that will continue to secure the future operations of the organization and its role in the profession. The NABE Annual Conference this past February in Dallas, TX was one of the most successful and exciting events in recent years. Our thanks and recognition goes to one of the most effective Local Organizing and Planning Committees, the school districts, colleges and universities and the strong leadership of the NABE Board and staff. The financial improvement of NABE has provided the organization with greater opportunities to accomplish the urgent advocacy and outreach activities to more effectively serve our membership and allies. Below you will find a summary of those activities and accomplishments.

Advocacy Activities

In the fall of 2011 NABE addressed many issues related to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (NCLB). Letters were sent to Congressional Representatives, DOE and Heads of the Health, Education Labor and Policy Committees; drafted and forwarded to Senator Reid's office two amendments to the bill asking for the inclusion of language related to

instructional programs using the native language of children and the use of native language assessments.

On May 3 of 2012 the entire NABE board spent a full day visiting Capitol Hill and the USDOE. Meetings were held with Senator Reid, Harkin and Menendez policy staff and others. The NABE Board and Executive Director also met with representatives from the Office of English Language Acquisition,

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the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education, the Office of Special Education, the Office of Civil Rights and representatives from the White House Education Policy Group.

NABE addressed some of the most challenging issues affecting our students and teachers and offered the following solutions to be included in the new ESEA bill (when reauthorized) and in the current and future policy statements:

- Targeted and valid assessments (adjust data collection systems to include the disaggregation of data by programs used to serve ELL's to determine long term program effectiveness)
- Dual language research and programs (Academic achievement through native language instruction)
- Seal of biliteracy program (Biliteracy for all children especially ELLs)
- Parent and community engagement (Promote parent collaboration, adult education, and family education)
- Change the designation of English Learners to dual language learners in the Title I and Title III Acts
- Provide greater authority and more resources to the OELA office to serve the agencies that serve ELLs.

NABE also met with the Co-Chair of the Hispanic Education Coalition, MALDEF attorney, James Ferg-Cadima. He, as well as the other representatives from Senator Reid's Office and from the USDOE were consistent in their recommendations that any changes to the re-authorization of (ESEA) must come from individual states via their US Congressional Representatives. They all recommended individual meetings with members of Congress on a state-by-state basis. Of particular importance is having your organization participate in consolidated federal application meetings before the application is submitted to the USDOE. So far 24 states have already applied and have been granted the Flexibility Waiver. NABE must be vigilant in its advocacy to ensure that ELLs are served with the most successful programs, personnel, and valid/fair assessments. Bilingual education offers sound programs that address the linguistic, cultural, and academic needs of our students, particularly programs which goal is biliteracy and bilingualism. The OELA office requested data related to

successful bilingual programs. They felt that the data would help them provide support for our requests. Therefore, I would like to ask each of you to send academic achievement data to OELA and to NABE that show the success of ELL students in specific programs and schools. The information can be sent to Rosalinda Barrera, Executive Director of OELA, Rosalinda.barrera@ed.gov. Please copy our executive director, Dr. Santiago

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Wood at svwood@bellsouth.net so that he can have the same information uploaded in the NABE website.

Our Executive Director also represents NABE on by attending meetings with the Hispanic Education Coalition, consisting of 30 Latino/Hispanic Education organizations; Presidential Advisory Committee on Improving Education for Hispanic Americans, Asian Americans and African Americans; the Stakeholders group in the Department of Education, Hispanic Coalition of Health and Human Services; Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents; College Board and other Policy Briefing and Legislative groups.

During the annual conference, a representative sample of the NABE membership helped draft and voted on three resolutions, 1) To oppose standardized testing; 2) To oppose the Core Academic Standards; and 3) To oppose English only movements

Outreach Efforts

NABE strengthened its relationship with the Hispanic Education Coalition represented by strong organizations such as such as MALDEF, NCLR, TESOL, and LULAC. In addition the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) of the U. S. Department of Education hosted its Title III National Professional Development grantees' meeting. NABE opened the lines of communication with the Alliance of Multicultural, Multilingual Education (AMME) through an initial dialog with some of their board member. NABE improved communication with our state affiliate organizations resulting in New Mexico reactivating their affiliation to NABE. States such as Illinois, Georgia, and Puerto Rico were encouraged to establish affiliation with NABE. A two for one membership drive was launched to increase membership. The membership drive will end on August 15, 2012. The outreach efforts will continue to be an important goal of the organization in the coming years.

The Helwing Scholarship

The New Eva Helwing Bilingual Teacher Scholarship was created this year in honor of the diseased Eva Helwing, a bilingual teacher from Illinois who never missed a NABE conference. Her love for NABE and bilingual education is still alive within her family who made the seed donation to NABE for deserving pre-service teachers to support their career in bilingual education. Please donate what you can to this scholarship program.

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NABE Office Reorganization

NABE is proud to announce the hiring of new staff members. Both Melissa Malakoff and Cassandra Laine, office manager and administrative assistant respectively are college graduates, gifted, and talented professionals that should provide excellent membership services and improve the overall management of the NABE national office. Please call the NABE office (240)-450-3700 to welcome them to the NABE family. Members should expect to see improvement in the look and organization of the website, membership services, electronic communication, conference support and resource sharing. NABE has also invested in new IT equipment and service providers. NABE is in the process of finalizing the procedures to organizing, preserving and making available to researchers and the general public vial the World Wide Web, all of its historical records in partnership with the University of North Texas and Pan American Libraries. This process is expected to be completed within a year.

NABE 2013 International Bilingual Education Conference

The conference is scheduled for February 7-9, 2013 at the Disney Coronado Springs Resort and Convention Center Property at Lake Buena Vista near Orlando, Florida.

The theme of the 2013 conference is ***Bilingual Education: Magic Happens***. The board voted on an international and exemplary lineup of keynote and featured speakers. Some of the confirmed keynote speakers to date are: Andrew Cohen, Ofelia Garcia, Kenji Hakuta, and Alberto Carvahlo. NABE board in conjunction with a dedicated local organizing committee that is co-chaired by Drs. Arnhilda Badia and Tomasita Ortiz of Florida along with the leadership of the Conference Coordinator, Nilda Aguirre, will continue to work diligently to have another successful conference. And as always, NABE appreciates your support and membership.

Publications

If you have any publications or news to share with the membership or to be published in the NABE perspectives magazine or eNews Multibriefs, please contact our Executive Director, Dr. Santiago Wood at svwood@bellsouth.net. Either an email blast will be sent out to our membership and/or the news will be placed on the NABE website.

In light of the many accomplishments and news about what is happening at NABE, much work remains to be done. We also need to improve collaboration with parents, school personnel, and policy makers, take proactive individual roles to make sure that outstanding educational opportunities are

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provided to bilingual students, lend advocacy and leadership within our communities to guide us to the next decade and prepare us for new challenges.

NEW LEADERSHIP

On July 20th of this year elections took place at NABE's recent board meeting, Eudes Budhai from New York is the new president, from Texas Jose Ruiz Escalante is Vice President, Leo Gomez is Treasurer, and Josefina Tinajero is Secretary, and I am member at large, other members at large are: Mihn Anh Hodge from Washington State, Julio Cruz from Illinois, Mariella Herold from Arizona, and Yee Wan from California. LTC Jose Fernandez was also elected as the Parent Representative on the Board. NABE will continue to work hard this year to continue to serve, provide leadership in professional development, student achievement, parent education and advocacy for bilingual education. NABE Board of Directors encourage everyone to talk to policy makers, government officials, and community members at large in your local communities and states about the long term benefits of high achieving, academically-based bilingual and biliteracy programs for our bilingual learners. Please join me in welcoming and encouraging our new board members.

Best regards,

Rossana Ramirez Boyd, Ph.D., NABE Immediate Past President