

Dr. Leo Gómez has served as a faculty member in Bilingual-Bicultural Education at the University of Texas Pan American (UTPA) since August 1994. He received his B. A. Degree in Secondary Education from *Pan American University*, M. A. Degree in Interdisciplinary Studies from *The University of Texas Pan American*, and Ph. D. in Curriculum and Instruction with a specialization in Bilingual/ESL/Multicultural Education from *Texas A&M University*.

Over the last 16 years, he has focused his research and other scholarly work on linguistic and academic issues that affect language minority populations, particularly Spanish dominant bilingual learners. He has conducted countless state and national presentations as well as published numerous articles on the educational benefits of **dual language education**, advocating the need for schools to implement *enrichment* dual language models of bilingual education that not only more effectively educates **Bilingual Learners** (commonly referred to as LEP or ELL), but all children. He is widely known and respected as a leader in the field both at the state and national level for making an impact in the field, ensuring that a majority of Latino students are provided an equal educational opportunity that significantly reduces the drop-out rate and prepares them for post-secondary.

Throughout his professional career, Dr. Gómez has been extensively involved in the development, implementation and assessment of *one-way & two-way* dual language programs implementing a *50/50 Dual Language Enrichment (DLE) Model* he co-developed in 1995. The consistent implementation of this DLE model has proven effective in improving the long-term academic and linguistic achievement (based on standardized test results in reading, mathematics and science) of Spanish and English dominant students across the state of Texas and other states. Today, the **Gómez & Gómez 50/50 DLE Model** is being successfully implemented in over 60 school districts representing over 440 elementary schools across four states: Texas, Washington, Nevada, and Kansas. In Texas alone, this model is being implemented in **417 elementary schools**. He has secured, administered and evaluated a number of Title I, II, III, & VII state and federal grants totaling over \$15 million for UTPA and public schools.

As an example, Dr. Gómez has provided guidance and support since 1995 to the *Pharr-San Juan-Alamo ISD*, as this district has continued providing a *dual language education* to students at the secondary level developing a MS & HS DLE model for them to follow. In the spring 2009, the first of seven (7) cohorts of students graduated from high school having received a **dual language education since kindergarten!** As of spring 2009, there are over 1000 students continuing a dual language education at the secondary level (MS & HS). This is a historic event for South Texas, the state of Texas and the country. South Texas and UTPA are at the forefront. Educators from across the country have and continue to visit this area to learn of the progressive education and accomplishments.

Dr. Leo Gómez has also engaged in impacting state of Texas policy changes in bilingual education. In 1999, he founded the *South Texas Dual Language Consortium*, made up of practicing DLE educators with the goal of promoting and supporting DLE for schools in South Texas. Similarly, in December of 2000, he established the *Texas Dual Language Consortium* with the same goals, but for *statewide* impact. He serves as Executive Director.

In 2001-2002, he served as President of the **Rio Grande Valley/Texas Association for Bilingual Education (RGV/TABE)**. He also served as a member of the **Texas Association for Bilingual Education (TABE)** Executive Board from 2001 - 2007. In 2005-2006, Dr. Gómez served as President of **TABE** and he was involved in promoting state legislation that created a bill for dual language immersion in Texas that passed unanimously in 2001, and in addition, was engaged in the crafting of TEA DLE guidelines for dual language program implementation in Texas that were finally adopted in 2007. In 2005-2006, Dr. Gómez served as President of **TABE** and conducted educational forums across the state of Texas providing much needed knowledge on quality bilingual education to district and community leaders. Through his leadership, TABE developed and submitted to state policy-makers and education leaders at TEA the nine-point **TABE Plan for Improving the Education of ELLs** in Texas that subsequently aided in the passing of historic bilingual education legislation in Texas in 2008. This legislation advocates and supports equitable education for ELLs by disaggregating ELL data by type of program served. This allows the state to identify and support quality enrichment bilingual education programs that work and work toward the elimination of those that do not.

Dr. Leo Gómez now serves as **Treasurer** of the **National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE)** Executive Board for 2009-2010. As a NABE Executive Board member through 2011, his efforts will include the promotion of one-way dual language nationally. NABE provides direction and guidance to national leaders related to federal policy that would positively impact quality and equitable education for Bilingual Learners.