



Season Greetings from the National Association for Bilingual Education!

MESSAGE FROM THE NABE PRESIDENT



This is a time to be merry and I wish all of you Season Greetings! Some news about NABE - during our Executive Board meeting on October 27, the board voted to change the name of the *NABE News* magazine to *NABE Perspectives*. We think that the new title better reflects the variety of contributions and viewpoints that we receive for publication.

We have continued our advocacy efforts by getting involved on issues concerning the Elementary and Secondary Education (ESEA) Reauthorization Bill that Senators Harkin and Enzin presented to the senate committee last month. The Senate received a lot of opposition for the bill from the Hispanic, African American and American Indian Caucuses, from different civil rights organizations and from NABE board members. The NABE Policy Makers Special Interest Group chaired by Annette Torres Elias from Texas worked with NABE to draft proposed amendments to the Title III law to change the designation of English Learners to English and Dual Language Learners. We also proposed the insertions of the words *languages other than English* in every line where the English language is mentioned so that Title III would address primary languages throughout the document. The bill continues to evolve and it will be going to the Senate floor in the spring. Therefore, we will continue our efforts to have different Senators present our proposed amendments to the Senatorial committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions. We need your help in taking an active role by speaking or writing to the U. S. senators and representatives in your state so that they can speak up on behalf of our students when the debate begins. One of the educational goals for our students is to become bilingual, biliterate, and multicultural.

Our Executive director, Dr. Santiago Wood, and several of our board members have been active representing NABE at different events and meetings throughout the U. S. Also, all of us have been working on the NABE 2012 conference that will take place in Dallas, Texas from February 15 to 17. Thanks to the leadership of Nilda Aguirre, conference coordinator, and the 21 local committees co-chaired by Magda Schenck and Sheryl Santos-Hatchett, the conference plans are progressing well. I invite you to register for the conference at www.nabe.org. Some highlights will be the offering of three NABE awards to educators that have contributed to the bilingual education field. The following persons will be recognized: Angel Noe Gonzalez with the Ramon Santiago Award, Dr. William Pulte with the President's Award, and Governor of California Jerry Brown with the Legislative Award. You may have already received a conference preview announcing the keynote speakers, Dr. Stephen Krashen, Dr. James Crawford, Dr. Jim Cummins, and Dr. Virginia Collier and Dr. Wayne Thomas. We will also have many featured speakers and over 200 concurrent sessions.

On behalf of NABE, I wish you Happy Holidays and a Prosperous New Year!, Feliz Navidad y Próspero Año Nuevo!

RBoyd

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