

Professional Development Letter of Request

To: _____

RE: NABE 2008

Dear _____:

The National Association for Bilingual Education is hosting a professional development opportunity for educators and administrators who serve English language learners (ELLs) in the ESL and bilingual education environments: – NABE 2008 in Tampa, FL on February 6 through the 9th, 2008.

NABE has hosted this annual conference for 38 years, since the implementation of the Bilingual Education act, drawing educators, administrators, researchers, and education policymakers from across the nation and US territories. Participants value the opportunity to dialogue, network, and learn from prominent leaders in the field.

Census figures indicate that ELLs are the fastest growing demographic group of students in the United States, a number that has more than *doubled* in the past 15 years. One in every eight students is identified as ELL. Until recently, many ELLs have been unrecognized, underserved, and often mistakenly referred to special education. Although we refer to them as a group, ELLs are diverse in and of themselves, with exceedingly different educational, cultural, and socioeconomic backgrounds. They not only share the richness of their linguistic and cultural experience with us, but also challenge us to address the persistent achievement gap between them and their English-speaking peers. The recommendations of the 2006 National Literacy Panel on Language-Minority Children and Youth emphasized research results that showed that enhanced performance in reading and writing in the native language had a profound effect in accelerating the transition to and the level of performance in English.

For these reasons, I would like to attend the 38th annual NABE conference, which will be held February 6-9, 2008, at the Hilton Washington in Washington, DC, and will offer the most current information on ELL and Bilingual Education Research, Title III Accountability, Early Childhood Education (birth to age five), Program Approaches for Language Instruction, Professional Development, Indigenous American Languages, Parent and Community Outreach, and Dual Language implementation. I will leave the conference with information and resources about bilingual and ESL education to share with my education community to help us better serve our growing ELL population.

Following are the costs of attending the NABE 2008 Conference:

Registration Fee (by November 28) \$ 375
Tampa hotel room per night (incl. tax) _____
Estimated travel costs to and from Washington, DC _____
Other (specify) _____
Total expected costs _____

Thank you so much for considering my request to attend NABE 2008 in Tampa, FL.
Please let me know whether my request is approved so that I may register while there are still spaces available.

Sincerely,