

## **Biography of Dr. Santiago V. Wood, Ed.D (Hon JD)-2009**

**The National Association of Bilingual Education (NABE) Executive Board of Directors is pleased to appoint Dr. Santiago V. Wood as its new Acting Executive Director. Dr. Wood is a former Title VII Fellow who completed his Doctorate Degree with the University of San Francisco under Dr. Alma Flor Ada in Second Language Acquisition and Multicultural Education with high honors. He also holds an MBA and Hon. JD from Armstrong University in Berkeley, CA. He is a distinguished international educator with extensive experience in public school and higher education teaching, administration, instructional leadership and school board training, professional development, parent education training, special education, bilingual education and international education programs. He recently served as Superintendent of the 4<sup>th</sup> largest school district in the State of California in addition to serving as superintendent, community college president, classroom teacher, university trustee, adjunct university professor, chairman of the Planning and Economic Development Commissions, Vice-Chair of the local Chamber of Commerce, and a licensed investment realtor.**

**In 2007, Dr. Wood was recommended by NABE and honored by the Mexican Government with the distinguished and coveted “Ohtli” Mexican Presidential Award for his dedication and contributions to the Mexican American Community in the US. Dr. Wood was one of the pioneers who led the overseas bilingual teacher, students and administrators exchange and recruitment initiative that led to the establishment of the first ever Mexican Office of Education branch in Sacramento, CA. Dr. Wood is one of the first US Superintendents of Schools to be recognized by governments of Mexico, Spain, Japan, Canada and the Philippines for his tireless work and leadership to share in educational improvement strategies, intercultural and global communications, and in building understanding, trust and respect among students, parents, faculty and staff. Dr. Wood served on two Presidential Commissions: “Schools of Choice” under President George Bush, and the “Transfer of the Panama Canal Commission” under President Bill Clinton where he accompanied President Jimmy Carter on Air Force II to sign over the Panama Canal Treaty to the Panamanian Government.**

**As a result of many years of successful experiences with low performing school districts, Dr. Wood retired from the Fresno Unified School District at the end of 2004 and established a consulting organization ([www.woodsnyandassociates.com](http://www.woodsnyandassociates.com)) devoted to helping urban school districts improve student achievement, by identifying barriers to achievement and implementing research based educational reforms and improvement strategies on parent involvement, teacher coaching, and administrators mentoring. A major focus of Dr. Wood’s efforts has been in the area of student achievement for English Language Learners of Title I, Title III and Title VII low performing schools. The Panamanian born leader has lived and traveled extensively abroad and is fluently bilingual in Spanish, English and French.**

