



Celebrating ABE_NM last 50 Years!

*"50 Years of New Mexico Voices:
Sustaining All Languages and
Cultures For Generations-
¡La Lucha Sigue!"*





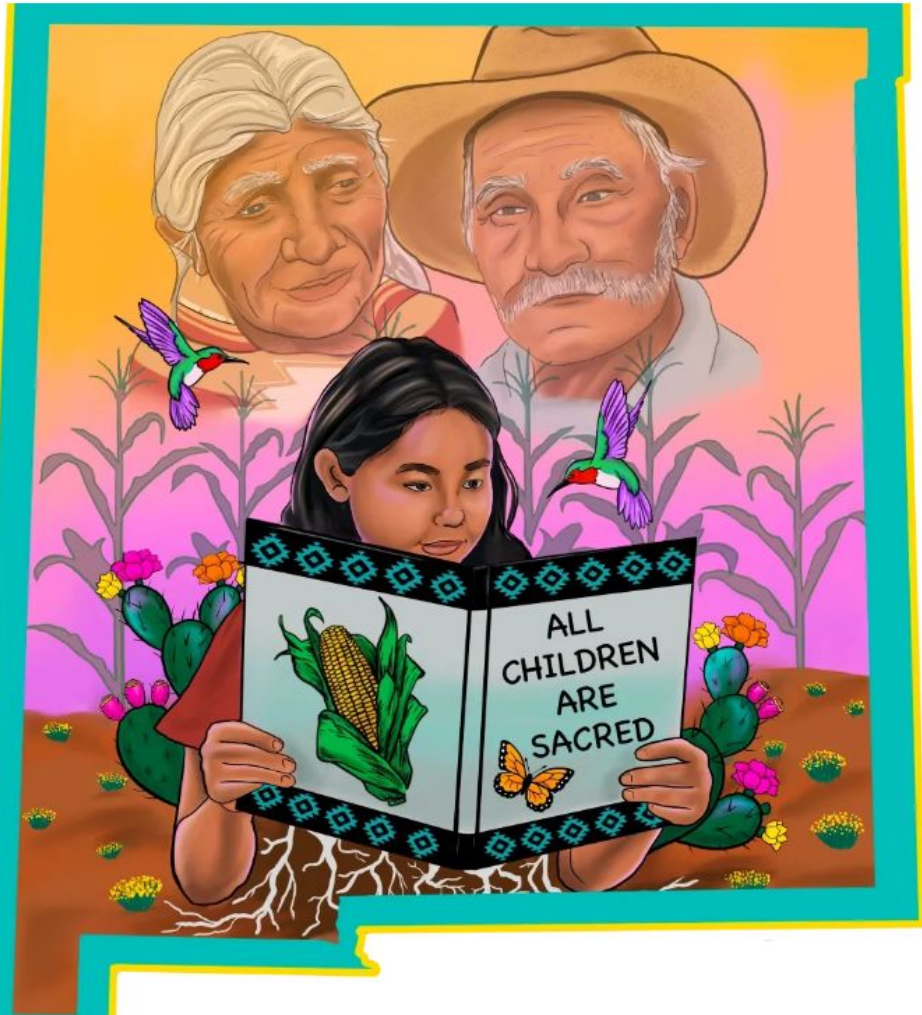
**ABE_NM honors,
recognizes, and thanks
NMABE Past
Presidents over the
last 50 years for their
leadership, dedication
and contributions to
the field of Bilingual
Multicultural
Education in New
Mexico!**

ABE NM Mission

The Association of Bilingual Education New Mexico is dedicated to supporting Bilingual Educators in their work and in their professional growth throughout the state of New Mexico.

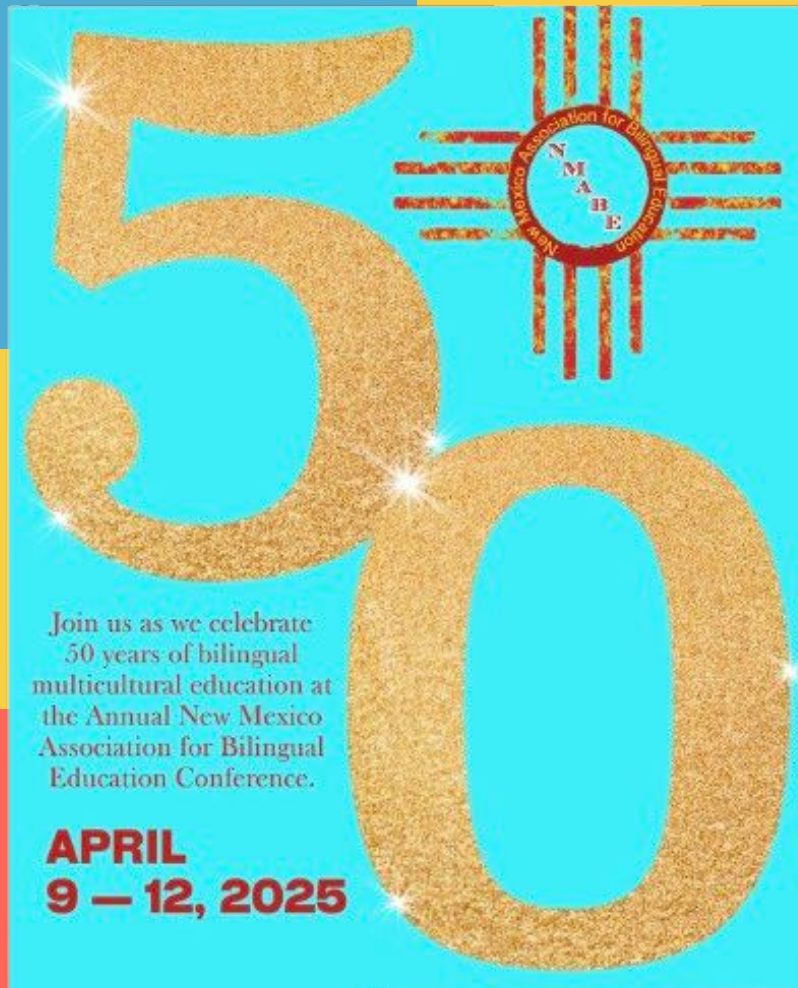
- *We believe that Bilingual Education benefits **all** students — those who are learning English as well as those who are learning other languages.*
- *We recognize the importance of many different kinds of educators in the lives of New Mexico students: parents, extended family members, teachers, administrators, paraprofessionals and peers.*
- *ABENM embraces the rich cultural and linguistic diversity within our state and promotes its inclusion in the education of all students.*

The association promotes educational excellence and equity through the creation of activities including advocacy, professional development and research.



**“50 Years of
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**¡La Lucha
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**Thank
you**



¡Gracias!

Dr. Mari Luci Jaramillo

NMABE President 1970-1971 (TESOL ORGANIZATION)

Dr. Mari Luci Jaramillo was ABE-NM's second president which at this time was a TESOL organization.

Dr. Jaramillo was native of Las Vegas, New Mexico In 1959, she graduated magna cum laude from Highlands University with a master's degree in education. In 1970, she earned a doctorate from the University of New Mexico. After graduation, she became an elementary school teacher. Later Jaramillo joined the faculty at the University of New Mexico and served in various roles, including associate dean, vice president, and assistant to the president of the university. Dr. Jaramillo wrote a book called "The Shoemaker Daughter"

She was also a diplomat who served as U.S. Ambassador to Honduras from 1977 to 1980. Upon her confirmation, Jaramillo became the first Mexican-American woman to serve as an American ambassador. In 1992, Jaramillo was appointed deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Latin America during the Clinton Administration.



Gus Keene, Jr.

NMABE President

1985-1986

Mr. Gus Keen, was of Navajo and Pueblo heritage committed and active educator. Mr. Keene was the first NMABE Native American President. He directed the Magdalena Title VII Program serving Navajo students. During one major session during this year conference, he directed participants to stand up one another and tap of the person in front of them. "Bilingual Education is such hard work. Everyone remember that you got a pat on the back for what you do". (Thank you Mary Jean Heberman for sharing your memories).

He also was Director at the Pueblo of Zuni.



Dr. Paul Martinez is nationally recognized in the field of Bilingual Education. He was the founder and Director of the Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations (CESDP) until his retirement in 2013. Shortly thereafter, he was appointed by U.S. federal Judge Richard Matsch as the Independent Monitor for the longstanding civil rights case; Congress of Hispanic Educators v. Denver Public Schools.

Dr. Martinez is a past president of the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) and NMABE. According to Dr. Martinez, his most significant contribution to the NMABE Board was statewide outreach to increase the annual conference attendance, working closely with the NABE Board and its regional affiliate, and building alliances with the NM Department of Education.

He advises current and future board members of ABE-NM to reaffirm their advocacy for bilingual education across NM, to work as closely as possible with the PED, tribal organizations, parent organizations, and NABE to continue and expand our legacy of bilingualism in the state.

Dr. Paul Martinez

NMABE President 1987-1988



Genaro, the quiet , driven leader of NMABE was relentless in his efforts to secure the future of bilingual education in New Mexico. As president he worked to provide the training at our conferences that would strengthen bilingual programs throughout the state.

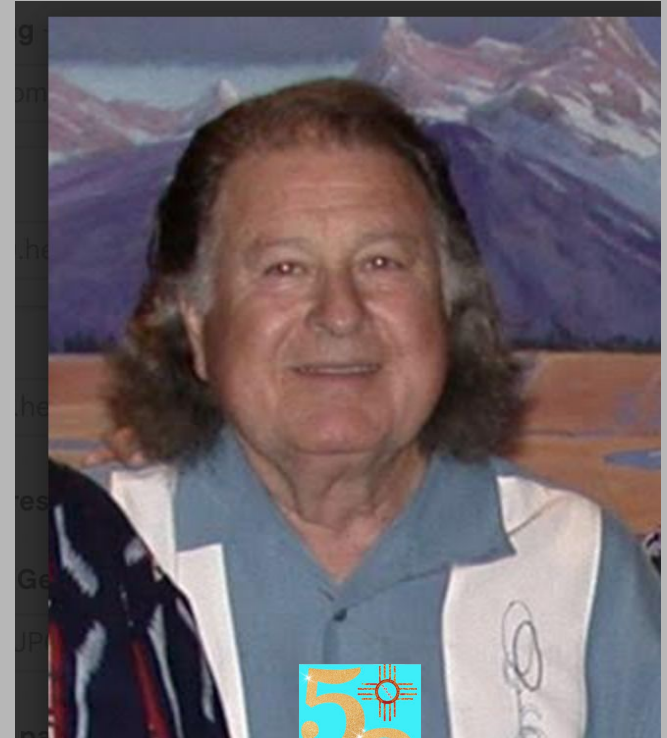
The professionalism with which he ran the organization secured its assets and gave it financial solvency.
The history of our organization can be documented through the years of documents he kept that tell our story.

Close ties were established with our parent organization, NABE, and we were able to bring many top-notch leaders in bilingual education to present at our conferences. Also a highlight were all the good things that were happening in our bilingual programs throughout the state, from our mariachi groups, to our dancers, bilingual spelling bees and essay contests that told our audiences "What it means to be Bilingual".

Genaro Roybal was very unassuming, and a hard worker who got things done. We are forever thankful for his leadership.

Genaro Roybal

NMABE President 1988-1989



Lupe Castillo

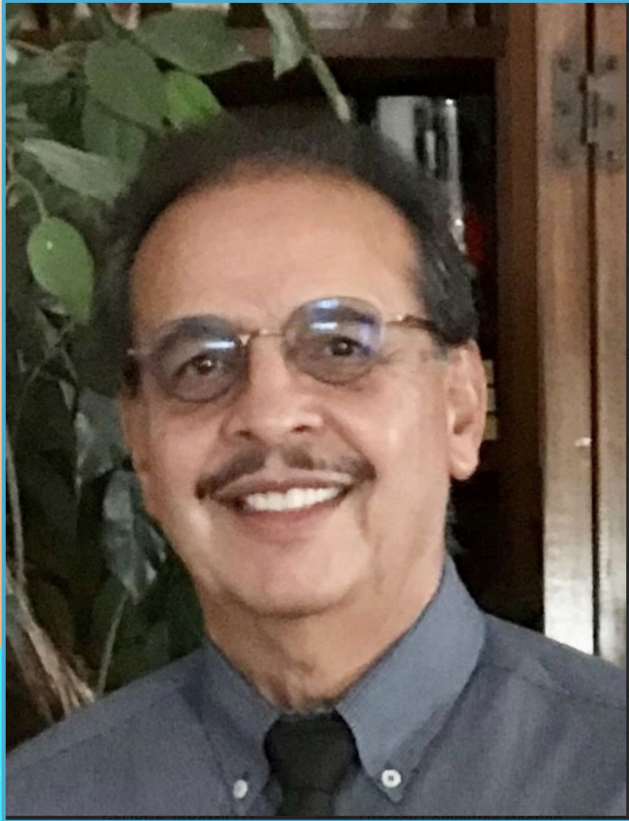
NMABE President 1990-1991

Lupe Castillo, born in Mexico, came to Las Vegas NM and studied at NMHU. She directed the West Las Vegas Bilingual Education program and later coordinated one of the three state funded Demonstration Teacher Training Centers administered to the Title VII Bilingual Ed. Unit at the NM Public Education Department. This year-long Institute brought bilingual teachers from district across the state for two week-long sessions to observe, practice, and videotape elementary Spanish language arts lessons at the Armijo Elementary Bilingual Education program. She became the Title VII coordinator at the NM PED, when Mary Jean H. Lopez was the state director for Bilingual Education.



Dr. Hermán García

NMABE President 1990-1991



Dr. E. Hermán García is Regents/Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education, New Mexico State University. His areas of research and interest included Educación Bilingüe Crítica /ESL /Literacy; critical and anti-racist pedagogy; international education; critical curriculum development and education of Latinos. His area of expertise is Critical Bilingual Education

Specialty Topics/Focus:

Educación Bilingüe Crítica /ESL /Literacy

Critical and anti-racist pedagogy

International Education

Critical curriculum development and education of Latinos

Countries of Expertise:

Mexico/Central America/Latin America

Dr. Julia Rosa Emslie

**NMABE President 1991-1992 and
2006-2007**

Dr. Julia Rosa López- Emslie joined Eastern New Mexico University in 1982 as an assistant professor of bilingual education and dedicated her life to issues related to that field, not only at Eastern, but throughout the state and nation. She secured over \$4 million in grants for the preparation of bilingual teachers, teacher aides, and administrators. She served as department chair, graduate dean, and dean of the College of Education and Technology.

Currently, Dr. López- Emslie serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Somos un Pueblo Unido, an immigrants' rights organization, in the state of New México. She is involved in various state organizations related to bilingual education. She retired as a professor emerita from ENMU in 2004 and continues to serve the state in many capacities.



Mary Jean Hebermann Lopez

NMABE President



Mary Jean has many years of experience and expertise in bilingual multicultural education at the local, state, national, and international levels. After receiving her BA in Spanish and secondary education, from NMHU she began working in this field as a graduate assistant and MA student under Dr. Cecilio Orozco' Bilingual MA program in 1972 and later received her MA from that institution. She taught Spanish Language Arts in the Bernalillo Schools elementary bilingual program, ESL at the *Secundaria de la Universidad Autonoma de Guadalajara*, and coordinated a secondary ESL program in the APS. As a Title VII bilingual specialist at the NMPED under Henry Pascual she visited NM bilingual classrooms and provided Spanish workshops and classroom demonstration lessons. As the state director bilingual education at the NMPED until her retirement in 2000, she provided many workshops and talks across the state and at ABE-NM and national conferences while working closely to help local bilingual program directors. During this period her collaboration with the education agencies of Spain and Mexico in preparation for the 500-year recognition of Columbus' landing in the Americas in 1992 resulted in international institutes, teacher exchanges, and placement of Spanish teachers from Mexico and Spain in NM bilingual classrooms. During her tenure, she worked in collaboration with Pueblo and Navajo education leaders as they developed bilingual certification processes in the Native languages of NM while also revising the state Spanish bilingual certification criteria. The current *Prueba* exam used to certify teachers' Spanish proficiency came about her under her tenure through Rep. J. Paul Taylor's legislation and the diligent work of the State bilingual Education committee.

Since her retirement from the PED, she has remained active in Bilingual Education as ABE-NM's the Associate Director, producing a monthly newsletter on state-wide activities and teaching courses for UNM, NMHU, and CSU. She served on the State Bilingual Advisory Committee and provided numerous workshops at the local level. Providing testimony at the Legislature with many bilingual education experts on the bilingual seal and other critical bills over the years has built the credibility of bilingual education in the political realm. She has published articles in Language Magazine and authored a chapter in Roberto Mondragon's [Nuevo Mexico An Anthology of History](#) published by NMHU in 2009. Co-author Rebecca Blum Martinez' and Mary Jean's book, [The Shoulders we Stand A History of Bilingual Education](#) published by UNM Press in 2022, is currently used in the preparation of bilingual education teachers at the university level.

Dr. Ida Carrillo

NMABE President 1993-1994

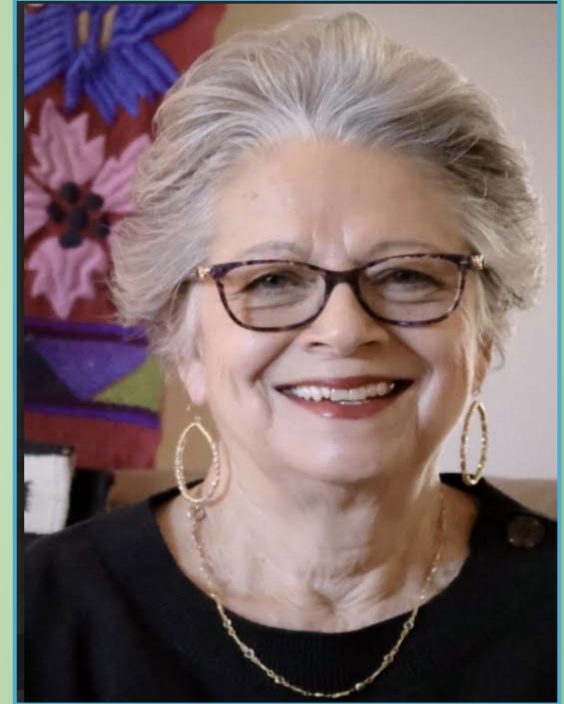
Dr. Ida Sanchez Carrillo, was very involved with NMABE since the seventies and supported legislature and programs for students serving Hispanic and Native American students as well teachers and school districts. She born in Alcalde, She was an educator who began her career at the Santo Domingo Schools and continued on to be a professor at the University of New Mexico and New Mexico Highlands University. She was a restaurant connoisseur, movie buff, and world traveler. She prayed the rosary every night, loved hearing stories of Jesus, and was a dedicated member of Queen of Heaven Parish, including being a part of the Spanish choir, member of the Catholic Daughters of the Americas, and a member of Our Lady of Guadalupe Society. She was also a member of the Morada de Alcalde.



Dr. Rebecca Blum Martinez

NMABE President 1994-1995

Rebecca Blum Martinez is Emerita Professor of Bilingual Education in the Department Language Literacy and Sociocultural Studies at the University of New Mexico, where she specialized in bilingualism, second language learning and language maintenance and revitalization in language minority communities—particularly Spanish-speaking and American Indian populations. Her research and scholarly interests have long centered on the study of language development in bilinguals and second language development across varied learning contexts. Dr. Blum Martinez also served as the director of Latin American Program in Education that served as a liaison between the UNM College of Education and Latin American educational institutions. Her recent publications include a co-authored chapter, On curriculum and pedagogy in dual language bilingual education in the forthcoming *The Dual Language Handbook of Bilingual Education*; a co-authored chapter entitled, “A watershed moment in the education of American Indian students: A judicial strategy to mandate the State of New Mexico to meet the unique cultural and linguistic needs of American Indian students in New Mexico public schools; and a co-edited volume, *The Shoulders We Stand On: A History of Bilingual Education in New Mexico*. She continues to advocate for bilingual and second language learners as, board member of DLENM, National Advisor to the non-profit EL Education organization and National Dual Language Advisor to the English Learner Success Forum where she has focused on improving materials for Spanish Language Arts. She is the recipient of the Anderson Imbert Prize by the North American Academy of the Spanish Language.



Senator Roberto Gonzales

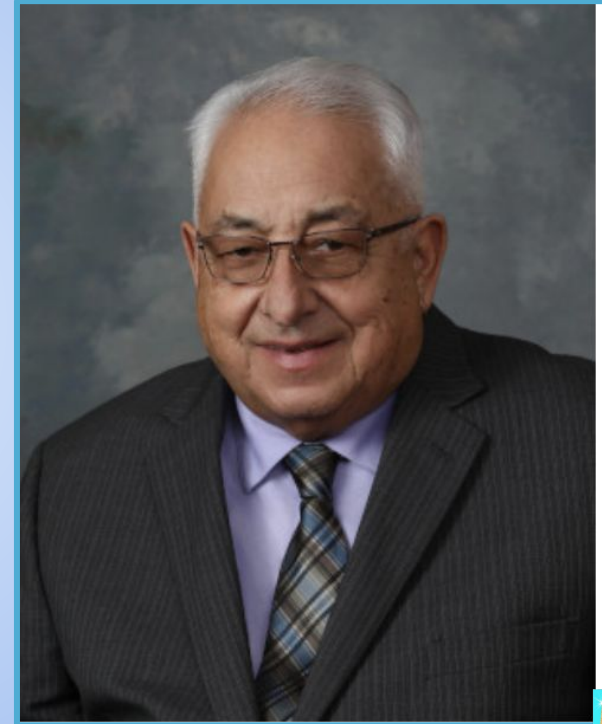
NMABE President 1995-1996

Senator Roberto Gonzales (also known as Bobby) Gonzales earned a B.S. from the University of New Mexico and an M.A. from New Mexico Highlands University.

Senator Gonzales is a retired educator. He served at the Taos Municipal Schools in different administrative capacities, including the District Superintendent.

Senator Gonzales (also known as Bobby) Gonzales is a member of the [New Mexico State Senate](#), representing [District 6](#). He assumed office on December 20, 2019. His current term ends on December 31, 2028. Gonzales ran for re-election to the [New Mexico State Senate](#) to represent [District 6](#).

He won in the general election on [November 5, 2024](#).



It was an honor to have served as NMABE President in 1996-97. My education and experience prepared me to assist the organization during this year. I received my BS and MA from the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) and my doctorate from Arizona State University (ASU).

Through the years I have been an elementary, secondary, and college teacher. Teaching every grade level from Pre-K to college. Teaching areas included mathematics, social studies, Spanish, and French. At the college level I taught graduate courses in education administration, linguistics, bilingual education, and TESOL.

My work experience includes being bilingual director, federal programs director, and assistant superintendent. Most of my life I have been able to write grants for school districts, universities, and foundations. My projects have always been to assist our Spanish speaking population. Currently I am the director of two grants that I wrote to benefit bilingual communities. One is a \$16.5 million grant in Texas and the other is a \$2.5 million grant in Arizona. I plan to retire upon completion of these grants.

As bilingual educators, we are committed to serve, encourage, and guide our students and communities to prosper and be contributing members of our society; thus, improving the lifestyles and values in our country. I have devoted my life to this purpose, now it is your turn to continue the quest.

Dr. Adela Holder

NMABE President 1996-1997



Ms. Theresa Lucero has a Master's Degree in Bilingual Multicultural Education. She worked in the Belen Schools in Primary Education for over 20 years. She also was the Director of Bilingual Education for the Belen Consolidated School District. She taught adult ESL classes for the College of Santa Fe and UNM Valencia Campus. Also, she taught Bilingual Education courses for the Ogden and Layton, Utah school districts. Theresa served on the NMABE Board as Treasurer, Vice-President and President Co-Chairman of the NABE Conference in Albuquerque. She worked as a textbook representative, doing training and sales in various states and throughout New Mexico; specializing in bilingual textbooks. Emphasis is always given to language and culture as key tools in learning.

For the last 10 years, she worked with LSG & Associates, a company that provides ancillary services and trainings to school districts throughout New Mexico and Native American Community Schools. UNTAPPED provides training and helps secure job placements for Individuals with Diverse ABILITIES. I has been over 60 years that I have had the pleasure of serving students en mi lindo Nuevo Méjico.

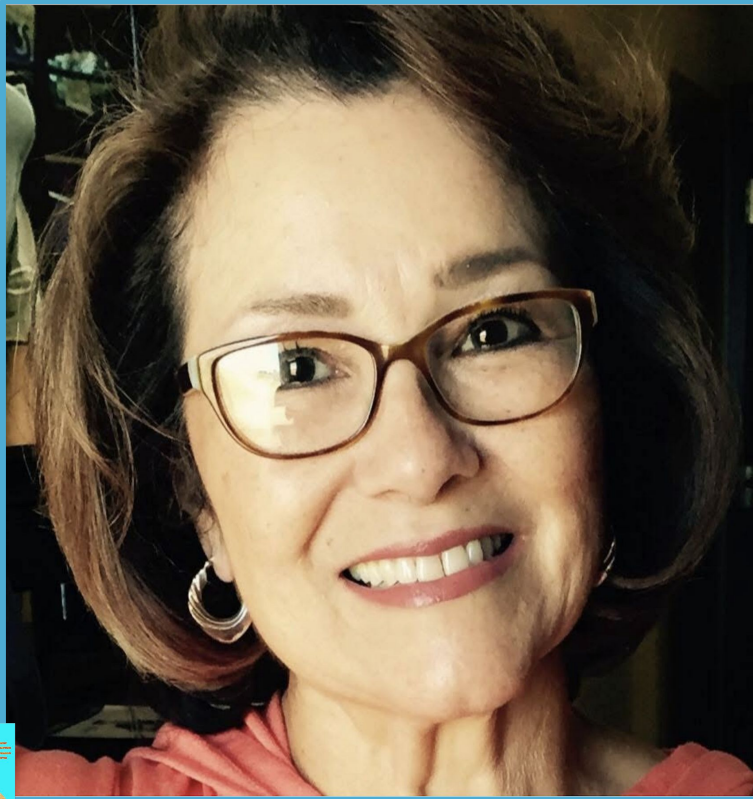
Theresa Lucero

NMABE President 1997-1998



Sonya Raftery

NMABE President -1999-2000



My educational journey began as a Substitute Teacher in Santa Rosa, New Mexico. I attended New Mexico State University in Las Cruces, and earned my bilingual certification from New Mexico Highlands University in 1981. My first official position was in Santa Rosa then in Mosquero as bilingual education elementary teacher and in Dexter as a Bilingual teacher and then Bilingual Director.

In Roswell Independent Schools, I was the Principal and then the District Bilingual Director. I also had the privilege of teaching as an adjunct faculty member at ENMU in Roswell. Next, I worked in Jemez Mountain Schools, where I continued to support a Title VII program.

My final position before retirement was as Superintendent of Vaughn Municipal Schools. I retired from public education in 2005 but continued my work as the principal of All Saints Catholic School in Roswell. My last teaching role was homeschooling my grandchildren during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now, in retirement, I enjoy traveling and volunteering..

Dr. Elsy Diaz is the Licensure Advancement Coordinator at NMPED, she has been the architect of the online Advanced Program Level (APL) Micro-Credential teacher licensure pathway. This pathway is designed for New Mexico educators advancing through the 3-Tier Licensure Advancement System. Dr. Diaz has extensive experience as an elementary school teacher, principal, and district director. Throughout her career, she has been a strong advocate for culturally linguistically responsive practices in classrooms, leading various programs in curriculum and staff development.

- 1999-2000 NMABE President-Elect
- 2000-2001 NMABE President
- 2001-2002 NMABE Past President
- 2002-2003 NMABE Treasurer
- 2002-2003 NABE Executive Board – Member
- 2003-2004 NABE Secretary
- 2004-2005 NABE Secretary and Conference Chair for NMABE in Albuquerque



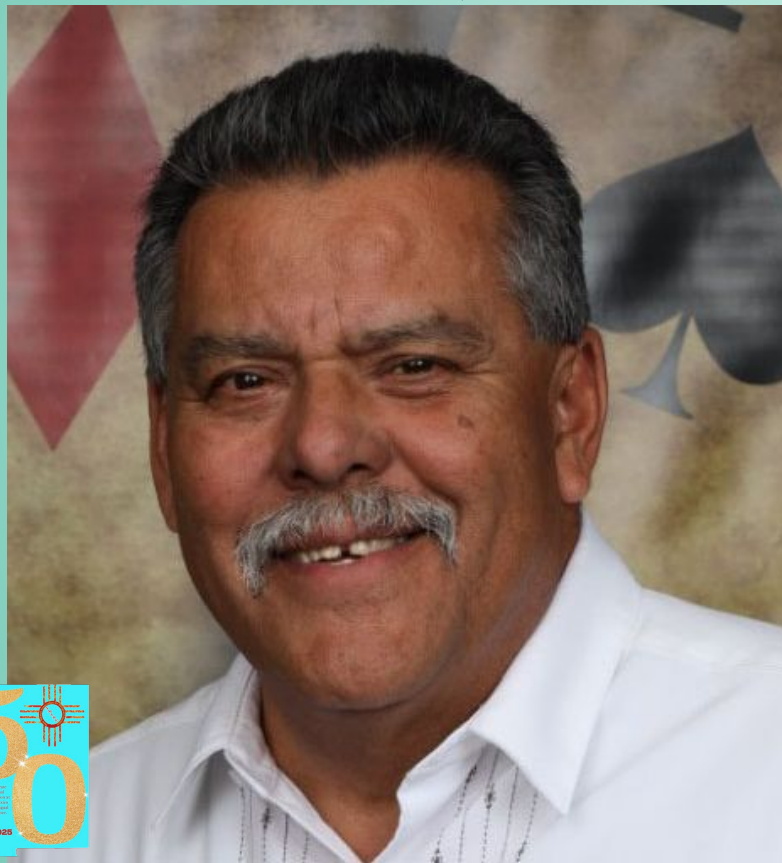
Dr. Elsy Diaz

NMABE President



David Briseño

NMABE President, 2001-2002



David Briseño is a retired educator, father of 4 and grandfather to 7 soon to be 8. His education career began in 1983 as a bilingual teacher at La Casita Elementary School where he taught second, fifth and sixth grade students. In 1990 he accepted a position at as a principal at James Bickley Elementary School. In 1997 he took on the role as the Director of Federal/Bilingual Programs, a position which he kept until his retirement from the Clovis Schools in 2009.

After his retirement, he began working for La Casa Family Health Center where he has worked as a practice manager and currently serves as the Director of Outreach and Corporate Compliance. He was elected to the NMABE Board of Directors in 1998. In 2002 he was selected to serve as the NMABE executive director, a position which he held through 2014. He organized many conferences, institutes and state Spanish spelling bees over those year. He was the 2023 Ben Lujan Lifetime Achievement award honoree and is proud to serve as the coordinator of the National Spanish Spelling Bee which will make its return to New Mexico in July, 2025. David has also served the students of New Mexico as a sports official, a career which he began in 1984 and one in which he remains active. During this time, he officiated Football, Basketball, Baseball and Fastpitch softball. Along the way he has had the opportunity to officiate championship games in Football, Basketball and Baseball. At the local level he has served as group leader in Basketball and Baseball and currently serves as the Southeast Regional Assigner for Football. He has also had the opportunity to serve at the state level as a member of the Officials' Commissioners Committee and the New Mexico Officials Association Board of Directors, and currently is the President of the New Mexico Officials Association. At the national level he was selected to serve on the National Federation Officials Association Board of Directors representing Section 6. He was recognized as the NMOA Baseball Umpire of the Year in 2004, as the Football Official of the Year in 2013 and received the 2016 NFHS National Distinguished Official Award in 2016. He and his wife, Margaret, reside in Clovis, New Mexico and are fortunate to be surrounded by family and grandchildren. He is most proud of the title "Lito" which is what his grandbabies call him!



Dr. Luis Ignacio “Nacho” Quiñones

NMABE President, 2001-2003



Dr. Luis Ignacio Quiñones “Dr. Nacho,” was President of the New México Association for Bilingual Education during 2001-2003. He is now retired as an educator having served New México schools for 27 years in various capacities including as a public relations director, teacher, bilingual director and administrator. He founded La Academia Dolores Huerta Middle School in Las Cruces to promote dual language education, Chicano/Chicana Studies, the arts through cultural and musical education, all with an emphasis on critical thinking pedagogy (inspired by Paulo Freire).

As a teacher at Cobre High School, Quiñones started one of NM’s and the US’s first Chicano/a Studies Departments with Chicano/a Studies, cultural studies, bilingual poetry, bilingual student publications, mariachi, ballet folklórico and M.E.Ch.A (Movimiento Estudiantil Chicano/a de Aztlán).

Prior to teaching, Quiñones was a sports broadcaster for KOAT-TV in Albuquerque. Later, he moved back to Grant County where he founded a newspaper (El Reportero) in Silver City. He also founded the Mexicano/Chicano Chamber of Commerce, El Central Cultural de la Raza, and co-founded other ventures (including El Teatro San Vicente and the Cooperative Ownership Development Program). As a retiree he continues to advocate for human rights and bilingual / cultural programs. He has been publishing the Raza Peace & Historical Calendar for 34 years. He also continues to perform Mexicano/Chicano music. He lives in Albuquerque with his wife, Isabel (also a retired educator).

He is very proud of all the great work NMABE has accomplished in Nuevo México for the benefit of our teachers and our students and school districts. ¡Muchas, muchas FELICIDADES, NMABE, on 50 years! **It’s GREAT to be BILINGUAL!**

Rosalinda Carreon Altamirano

NMABE President, 2003-2004



Rosalinda Carreón-Altamirano has been involved in Bilingual/Migrant Education for more than 40 years. She worked for 3 school districts before retiring. Rosalinda served on the NMABE Board as President elect twice and served as president twice and she was the Southern Consortium president. She helped coordinate the State Spanish Spelling Bee for several years.

She has served on many state committees and her tireless efforts for students to succeed via two or more languages have led to her being recognized at the state and national levels.

In 2012 she received the George I. Sánchez NEA Human & Civil Rights Award for the promotion of Hispanics and closing the achievement gap for Minority students, was recognized by the House and Senate on Bilingual Day in January 2013.

She worked with the Human and Civil Rights Department to create an ESL Training Module for educators in the United States.

She currently is the NEA NM Retired President.

I am truly grateful for the experiences I was afforded as a Bilingual Educator. Thank you to my students, colleagues, parents, and stakeholders invested in having our students succeed.

Tengo el orgullo de ser educadora bilingüe del estado de la tierra del Encanto, Nuevo México.



Dr. Gabriel Baca worked in education for 31 years. He began his career as an ESL teacher and bilingual coordinator at Polk Middle School. He learned a lot from his students and their families that first year.

He has been blessed to have held various positions in central office, at the Public Education Department, and at UNM-Los Alamos - involving bilingual education, Title I and other federal programs, and ESL classes for adults. He believes in education and the potential of all students.

Dr. Baca credits his parents and his wife for his success in life. His favorite dicho is from his father-in-law: "Nadie nació aprendido."

Dr. Gabriel Baca

NMABE President, 2004-2005





Dr. Julia Rosa Emslie

**NMABE President 1991-1992 and
2006-2007**

Dr. Julia Rosa López- Emslie joined Eastern New Mexico University in 1982 as an assistant professor of bilingual education and dedicated her life to issues related to that field, not only at Eastern, but throughout the state and nation. She secured over \$4 million in grants for the preparation of bilingual teachers, teacher aides, and administrators. She served as department chair, graduate dean, and dean of the College of Education and Technology.

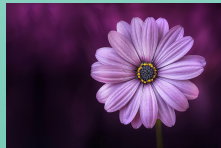
Currently, Dr. López- Emslie serves as a member of the Board of Directors of Somos un Pueblo Unido, an immigrants' rights organization, in the state of New México. She is involved in various state organizations related to bilingual education. She retired as a professor emerita from ENMU in 2004 and continues to serve the state in many capacities.



Dr. Loretta Salazar NMABE

President 2007-2008

Loretta C Salazar, Ph.D., Emeritus Associate Professor of Education, New Mexico Highlands University, provided technical assistance with the University of New Mexico / United States Agency for International Development in El Salvador, taught Bilingual Education, Spanish and English as a Second Language. She directed the NMHU Bilingual Education / TESOL programs, a Career Ladder grant, Spanish Immersions, taught in Granada, Spain, in Veracruz and Oaxaca, Mexico. Dr. Salazar, former president of the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education, was honored with the “Bilingual Professor of the Year” and the “Matías Chacón” awards.



Dr. Rudolfo Chavez

NMABE President 2008-2010



Dr. Chávez served as a Senior Associate with the Center for the Education and Study of Diverse Populations. He most recently directed his own training firm, Bilingual Professional Development Services, a training and consulting firm he founded in 2001 in Denver, Colorado.

He was actively involved as a member of the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) Board beginning in 1986, serving an unprecedented second-year term as President. He also served as President of two NABE affiliates—the New Mexico Association of Bilingual Education and the Colorado Association for Bilingual Education. Additionally, he served on the Board of Directors of the National Hispanic Leadership Agenda. Throughout his professional career, Dr. Chávez provided educational leadership and guidance at the national, state, and regional levels, offering direction to educators serving Immigrant, Migrant, and English Language Learners to support their success linguistically, socially, and academically.

Dr. Chávez also served as Associate Director of the BUENO Center for Multicultural Education at the University of Colorado Boulder. He taught at the university level at the University of Colorado, Eastern New Mexico University, and Arizona State University. At New Mexico Highlands University, he directed a master's bilingual teacher training program for 25 years, helping prepare over 300 bilingual educators in Northern New Mexico.

In addition to his administrative and university roles, Dr. Chávez taught at the elementary school level and worked directly with countless parent groups. In September 1990, he was featured in an article in USA Today on how language minority parents can help their children. He was also selected for inclusion in the 1991 edition of Who's Who Among Hispanic Americans.

For the past 40 years, Dr. Chávez provided leadership in family empowerment and English Language Learner initiatives. His sensitivity to, and knowledge of, the needs of this country's growing language minority population is well documented.

Emily Vigil, President NMABE



Emilia (Emily) Medina Trujillo-Vigil served as NMABE (New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education) after serving Emilia was recognized as New Mexico Administrator of The Year. Emilia began her career in education at Adams State University after graduating with degrees in Elementary Education and Spanish. She earned her Masters Degree in Reading K-12 from the University of Colorado. She also earned endorsements in Bilingual Education and School Administration from New Mexico Highland University. Emilia also studied in Mexico and Spain to strengthen her skills in Spanish and to be a role model for her children. Emilia grew up speaking Spanish with her grandparents and her father who came to the United States from Aguascalientes, Mexico. They instilled in her the value of keeping and valuing her first language and culture and the importance of learning English and pursuing an education.

Emilia was fortunate to have had the opportunity to serve in the Jemez Mountain School District in Gallina, New Mexico as a teacher for 17 years and as an administrator for 18 years. She promoted the importance of valuing the language and culture of all children. Her belief was that recognizing and valuing the language and culture of children was the key to opening the door for successful learning for all. To celebrate language and culture in her school, she and her colleagues established “Culture Day” every Spring for the students and community. In that same spirit of celebrating language and culture, Emilia taught Mexican folk dancing, co-directed plays about the rich traditions of the school and community, promoted the Spanish Spelling Bee and numerous other events and activities. She also wrote and received a Title VII grant to provide bilingual instruction for teachers in the district and surrounding areas.

Emilia shared her love of teaching and the importance of bilingual education in our state by teaching classes for the University of New Mexico and New Mexico Highlands University.



Dr. Jesús Moncada

NMABE President 2011-2012



Dr. Jesús Moncada is currently serving as Board Treasurer in the Association of Bilingual Education New Mexico. He serves in ABE-NM since 2009. He also serves as the ABE-NM as the State Spanish Spelling Bee Coordinator. He enjoys supporting students, bilingual educators, and communities in New Mexico. He was born in Chihuahua, México, and raised along the border in the Deming/Palomas area. He graduated from Deming High School and completed his bachelor's degree in Elementary Education with Endorsements in Bilingual and TESOL from New Mexico State University in 1999. He began teaching for Las Cruces Public Schools in 1999. In 2003, he received the NMABE Henry Pascual Excellence in Teaching award. In 2004, he completed his master's degree and has been an administrator in the Dallas Independent School District and Albuquerque Public Schools. He is currently in his nineteenth year as principal at Christine Duncan Heritage Academy, an APS Authorized Charter School.

In addition, he serves on the Association for Charter School Educational Services (ACES) executive committee and was the president of the ACES Governing Board in 2013. In the past, he also served as a representative on the board for Dual Language Education of New Mexico. He also completed a term as a member of the Hispanic Education Act State Bilingual Advisory Committee.

His life experiences as an immigrant from México and attending school in the USA since age 11 makes him a strong advocate for bilingual education. His passion is his family, educating children, and promoting higher education, especially for minorities and children of poverty. He strongly believes that education is the key to a better future. Dr. Moncada is very proud to serve New Mexico!

Dr. Gladys Herrera-Gurulé has been involved with the New Mexico Association for Bilingual Education since 1995 as member, NMPED representative, past president and vice president. She graduated with her Masters and her Doctorate Degrees from the University of New Mexico. During her education career she was adjunct professor at UNM, NMHU, NMCC and Universidad Autónoma de Bucaramanga.

Dr. Herrera-Gurulé is a retired educator, who worked for more than four decades in different teaching and administrative capacities in her native country of Colombia and New Mexico.

She began her education career as a teacher in 1980 at the Instituto Caldas and then as a professor and academic dean at the Universidad Autónoma de Bucaramanga Colombia. From 1994-2002 she worked as Spanish, Bilingual Teacher, Bilingual Director and Assistant Superintendent at the Peñasco Independent School District.

Dr. Gladys served as the Bureau Chief for Bilingual Multicultural Education and English Language Programs at the New Mexico Public Education Department (NMPED) from 2002 to 2011.. In this capacity she worked with 468 schools, 64 districts and approximately 15 Charter Schools. She was the Responsible Officer for the teacher exchange programs with Mexico and Spain. Also, she served as NM Education Liaison for the US and Mexico Border States Programs. She was a Bilingual teacher at Cariños Charter in 2011-2012. School and from 2012 to 2023 she was the Principal and Family Engagement Taos Municipal Schools,

Currently Dr. Gladys continues actively involved working collaboratively with local, state, national, and international agencies, and stakeholders to enhance services and resources to our students, educators and families.

Dr. Gladys Herrera-Gurulé

NMABE President 2012-2013





Florence Acque

NMABE President 2013-2014

Ms. Acque's career began as an educational assistant at Dowa Yalanne Elementary School in 1979. This experience brought out an interest for her to become a teacher. She became certified as a K-8 teacher in 1989.

Ms. Acque's experience includes:

- Teaching Zuni dual language immersion program, 90/10 model.
- Bilingual Program Cultural Specialist in the Zuni Public School District
- NMPED Educational Administrator and the State Title III Coordinator in the Bilingual Multicultural Education Bureau
- Zuni Graduate New Mexico Program Manager
- School Principal at Twin Buttes High School

Her passion for education is driven by the belief that all students can learn both their native language as well as English in order to have a successful life and career. This is meaningful in that our language is the bridge to academic success. Full-on oral instruction with the use of actual culturally relevant materials, Total Physical Response (TPR), along with song and dance are best practices that work and are the closest match to the traditional ways that we learned our language and culture.



Ana María “Nana” Encinias

NMABE President 2014-2015

Ana-Maria Encinias, known to everyone as Nana, studied at the University of Albuquerque where she earned a B.S. Elementary Education (bilingual and ESL), and M.A. Special Education and an Ed.S. Educational Administration. She taught elementary school for 13 years and worked her way up to principal and then into administration. She followed her father Dr. Miguel Encinias' work in championing bilingual, ESL and multicultural education in New Mexico. Her career spanned more than 40 years. She loved her job and continued to work despite her battle with breast cancer which began three years ago. She showed amazing strength and courage.

Nana from an early age, was a passionate and devoted animal lover. She adopted quirky animals and loved the ones others ignored. She was involved with animal volunteer organizations and spent much of her free time working and training her dogs in order to visit hospitals and nursing homes and participate in agility competitions.



Victoria Tafoya is a native of New Mexico. She was awarded the Title VII scholarship while attending the University of New Mexico where she received her degree in Elementary Education with an endorsement in Bilingual Education from the University of New Mexico. She taught with the Albuquerque Public School District as well as with the Department of Defense Schools in Yokosuka, Japan. Attended the University of New Mexico and received her Masters Degree in Educational Administration. Worked for Rio Rancho Public School District for 12 ½ years as an Assistant Principal and Executive Director of Federal, Bilingual, Camp; Native American Programs. As a strong advocate for quality programs supporting linguistically-diverse populations, she maintains a focus on supporting students to become bilingual and biliterate in English and a second language as well as meeting state academic content standards in all subject areas. She also worked at Dual Language Education of New Mexico where she was the Director of Operations. Victoria was recruited by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation in 2019 to be a Program Officer in Early Childhood Education and Education Systems. Victoria has a history of being part of strong proponent of state-lead community advocacy groups such as: The Coalition for the Majority; Former Member of the State Bilingual Advisory Committee; Long time member, Past-President, of the New Mexico Association of Bilingual Education among many other organization. She is married to Mr. Greg Tafoya, and has two daughters Solara and Selica. They are an important part of her life and a continual source of support. It is her hope for her two daughters, and all students, that they possess the competence and attitudes to be successful, contributing members of our thriving, diverse society. Victoria believes that we should accept nothing less than high-level success from both students and adults, and that as a community, we work together diligently to support one another to accomplish it.

Victoria Tafoya

NMABE President

2017-2017



Michael Chavez

NMABE President, 2017-2018



Michael Chavez is in his thirty-first year in public education. Born and raised in Deming, New Mexico, Michael has been a lifelong resident with deep roots in southwest New Mexico. He earned his education degrees from New Mexico State University. His experience includes being a teacher, principal, and director of federal programs and bilingual education. He served on the New Mexico Public Education Commission from 2018 to 2022 and has been involved in numerous committees and task force groups focused on equity.

Michael is currently superintendent of the Hatch Valley Public Schools in the Chile Capital of the World. In his sixth year as superintendent, Michael is leading his team to bridge the opportunity gap by redefining the way they educate students. Working in a district with challenging student demographics, Michael and his team are focused on meeting the district's purpose – to improve their students' quality of life through the development of life skills, career readiness and recognizing the asset of being biliterate.

Michael and his wife, Vicki, have been married 38 years and enjoy spending time with family and being outdoors. They have committed their career to the education of New Mexico's students.

Dr. Suzanne Jacquez Gorman, NBCT

NMABE President 2018-2019

Thirty years of experience in bilingual multicultural education as a Bilingual Teacher (Grades K-8), Assistant Principal, Principal, Second Language Acquisition Coordinator, Bilingual and EL Coach working in the Santa Fe Public Schools (SFPS), Albuquerque Public Schools (APS), and the Santa Fe Indian School (SFIS).

Highlights:

Principal of a Bright Spot Dual Language School and International Spanish Academy, Agua Fria/ECRA Academy, SFPS.

- 2025 Board Member, ABE-NM, Formerly NMABE
- 2018-2019 & 2022-2023 Past President of NMABE (2 terms)
- 2022-2025 Board Member and NE Regional Rep. for NM NBCT Network
- 2015-2019 Co-Chair of the State Bilingual Advisory Council, BMEAC
- 2005-2015 Co-Chair and Member of Dual Language Education of NM, DLENM
- 2014-2025, SFPS District Bilingual Seal Coordinator
- 2022-2025, SFPS District 8th Grade Pathway Award Coordinator
- 2015-Present, Bilingual Coach, SFPS District



I believe in bilingual, multicultural, and high-quality rigorous teaching and learning for all students.



Carmelita Lee

NMABE President 2019-2020

Farmington, NM

Farmington Public Schools District Instructional Facilitator

What do you consider your most significant contribution or memory to bilingual education through your leadership on the board? My most significant contribution or memory to bilingual education during my leadership as President of NMABE is: I learned to work with many Bilingual Education Advocates and how important it is as a leader to promote Bilingual Education in my home community.

What advice/comments do you have for the current and future board members of ABE_NM?

Advice for current and future board members of ABE_NM is to continue advocating for Bilingual Education as it is much more important today. New Mexico has become a diverse state and we need to support each other.

Do you have the original painting, poster, artifacts or photos of board members that you would like to share with ABE_NM participants (slide show) Yes. I do have the original painting, poster and some of the photos.



Judith Touloumis can be described as tenacious in her belief that every child should be “Our true North” and that every child is deserving of the best we can provide within our communities. She is the site administrator at Carlos Rey Elementary, where she has been in her current position for 27 years.

Judith served as NMABE President for two years. The first year was during the pandemic that shut down the nation. During the 2020 – 2021 year NMABE could not hold its annual conference and board members instead held healing circles with staff via zoom in their districts. The NMABE board voted to extend her NMABE presidency.

For Judith the 2021 – 2022 NMABE theme “**Affirming Our Strengths and Resiliency through Languages and Cultures**” signified the importance of validating our students’ diverse languages and cultures in the state of New Mexico. At this conference the Martinez/Yazzie Court Case had to be acknowledged for continuing to pave the way for important conversations that continued to take place as we advocated for doing what is right for students. Her message was that as a bilingual and multilingual biliterate state we needed to continue to hold leaders in power accountable for addressing the Martinez/Yazzie Court case.

Judith continues to advocate by reminding educators, parents and policy makers that we are the advocates and power brokers for identifying the needs of our students and as a collective group we must continue to expect accountability from elected officials within our communities and our state.

Judith Touloumis NMABE



Dr. Suzanne Jacquez Gorman, NBCT

NMABE President 2022-2023



What do you consider your most significant contribution or memory to bilingual education through your leadership on the board?

I collaborated with NMABE board members to develop protocols for conducting retreats for strategic planning for the upcoming school year. We revised the NMABE bylaws to ensure we were meeting current organization needs, and we moved from having a volunteer Executive Director to a part-time Executive Director position.

My most significant memory of bilingual education during my leadership as President of NMABE is meeting and developing friendships with amazing bilingual advocates, parents, community members, educators, and colleagues throughout NM. Together, we can continue to make a positive difference for all students and families. ¡Si se puede!

What advice/comments do you have for the current and future board members of ABE_NM? We are NM! We must advocate and utilize our local talents and resources to provide all students in NM with an opportunity to become bilingual and biliterate. Let's sustain, enhance, and revitalize all native languages for all New Mexicans.



Rosemary Carrasco

NMABE President 2023-2024

Rosemary Carrasco received her Bachelor of Science from Highlands University in 2000, her Masters from Walden University in Curriculum and Instruction and is currently Coordinator of Bilingual and Equity with Carlsbad Municipal Schools. She taught in Carlsbad for 21 years as a bilingual teacher from Kindergarten to 5th grade and is currently in her fourth year as the bilingual coordinator. While as a bilingual coordinator she has implemented the SSBB and has doubled the amount of students receiving the seal.

She served in NMABE as a secretary, Vice President, President Elect, President and currently the Past President. It has been her greatest honor to serve for this great organization and an achievement I will hold dearly in my heart.

During her time as part of this organization she, Executive Director, Dr. Elisabeth Valenzuela and the board of directors worked together to reinstate our 503 (B) status, and updated our Bylaws.



Dr. Berlinda Begay

2024-2025

Dr. Berlinda Begay is a dedicated advocate for Indigenous language and culture, and a citizen of the Navajo Nation. With over 28 years of experience in Indian Education, she is deeply committed to the revitalization, maintenance, and sustenance of the Navajo language. Her expertise spans Navajo language curriculum and assessment development, bilingual instruction, and professional development in Navajo bilingual education. Her research focuses on cultural identity development through culturally responsive teaching, Indigenous language programs, and supporting American Indian English Learners, demonstrating her unwavering commitment to empowering Indigenous students through their heritage.



Corina Alvarez

NMABE President

2025-2026

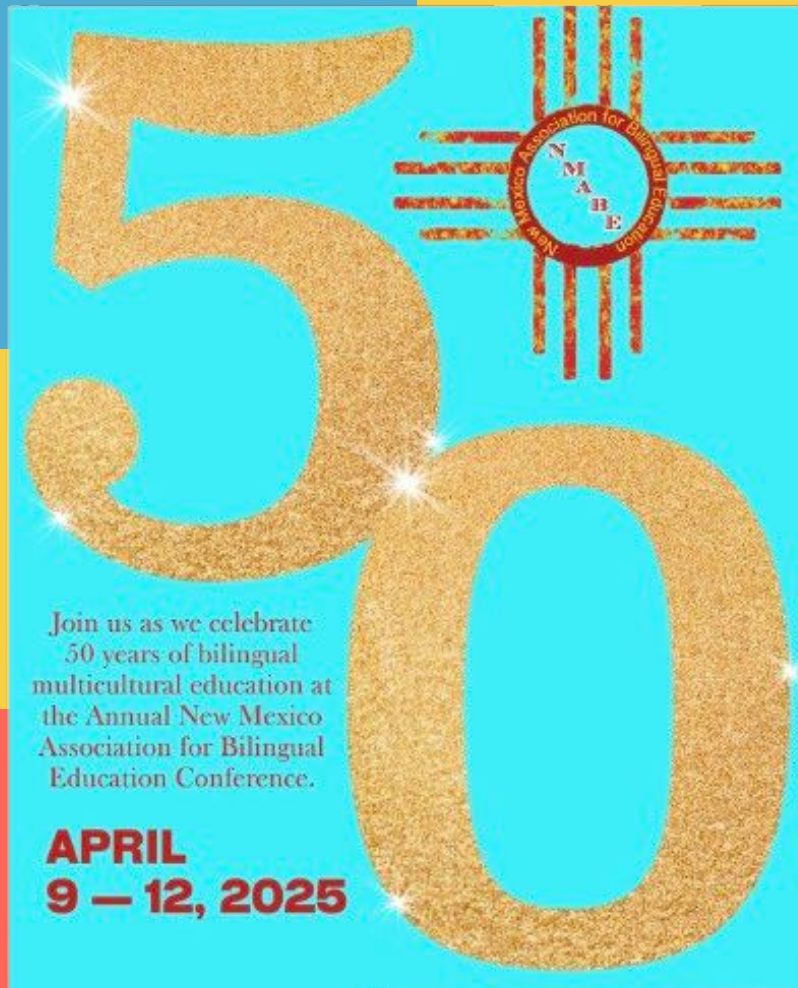
Corina Alvarez graduated from New Mexico State University in 2006 with a degree in Elementary Education, along with endorsements in Bilingual Education and TESOL. She went on to earn a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction in 2011. With 11 years of experience as a Bilingual Teacher, Corina transitioned into administration, where she has served as an Assistant Principal and Principal for the past seven years.

Throughout her career, Corina has made significant contributions to NMABE in various capacities.



**“50 Years of
New Mexico
Voices:
Sustaining
All
Languages
and Cultures
For
Generations-**

**¡La Lucha
Sigue!”**



**Thank
you**



Gracias

Past Presidents



**Mary Jean Hebermann
Lopez
Gus Keene
Gegaro Roybal
Rosalinda Carrión
Altamirano
David Briseño
Dr. Julia Rosa Emslie**

Past Presidents



Rosalinda Carrión Altamirano

Dr. Julia Rosa Emslie

Theresa Lucero

Dr. Mari Luci Jaramillo

Dr. Gabriel Baca

Sonia Rafferty

Dr. Ida Carrillo

Dr. Luis Ignacio “Nacho”

Quiñones

Mary Jean Hebermann Lopez

Genaro Roybal

Past Presidents

Dr. Mari Luci Jaramillo
Dr. Ida Carrillo
Sonya Raftery
Dr. Julia Rosa Emslie



Past Presidents, Board Members and Advocates



Dr. Jesus Moncada
Senator Navas
Dr. Rebecca Blum Martinez
Teri Frazier
Rosemary Carrasco
Michael Chavez
Mary Jean Hebarman
Corina Alvarez
Jessie Winter
Edward Tabet Cubero
Patrick Werito
David Rogers
Dr. Julia Rosa Emslie
Dr. Loretta Salazar
Dr. Gladys Herrera- Gurulé
Victoria Tafoya
Regis Pecos
Dr. Chris Simms
Ines Montoya

Past Presidents

Rosemary Carrasco
Michael Chavez
Dr. Jesus Moncada
**Dr. Karen Martinez, Secretary
of Education**
Dr. Suzanne Jacquez Gorman
Carmelita Lee
Dr. Gladys Herrera- Gurulé
Teri Frazier, Board Member
Victoria Tafoya
Corina Alvarez



Last 50 years NMABE

NMABE Past President Link



NMABE Presidents

1969-1970	Bernard Spolsky	NM TESOL founded. (Deceased)
1970-1971	Dr. Mari-Luci Jaramillo	Former U.S. Ambassador to Honduras (Deceased)
1971-1972	Maria Gutierrez Spencer	TESOL is converted to NMABE. (Deceased)
1972-1973	Albino Baca	(Deceased)
1973-1974	Dr. Maria Chavez	Albuquerque, Retired. Former Bernalillo BE Director. (Deceased)
1974-1975	Lito Martinez	
1975-1976	Dr. Grace Gutierrez	Santa Fe- original SBAC member
1976-1977	Grace Romero	Former Roswell BE Director
1977-1978	Pedro Atencio	Santa Fe. Got NMABE non-profit status
1978-1979	Emalina Pacheco	APS director of Bilingual Education

NMABE Presidents



1979-1980	Ray Rodriguez	Albuquerque (Deceased).
1980-1981	Dr. Maria Chavez	Albuquerque. Former BE Director in Bernalillo. (Deceased).
1981-1982	Dr. Ignacio Cordova	Albuquerque Former Assistant Provost, Academic Affairs, UNM. (Deceased).
1982-1983	Eva Tellez	
1983-1984	Tomas Villarreal	Lives/Works in Texas, Former Director of BE Teacher training Center.
1984-1985	Dr. Ignacio Cordova	Albuquerque. Former BE Director in Bernalillo. (Deceased).
1985-1986	Gus Keene, Jr	Directed multiple NA Bilingual Education Programs. He was also Director Pueblo of Zun.
1986-1987	Francisco Sisneros	Asst. Superintendent, Socorro Public Schools, former Bilingual Education Director.
1987-1988	Dr. Paul Martinez	Director CESDP, NMHU
1988-1989	Genaro Roybal	Albuquerque. Retired, APS BE coordinator Title VII.

NMABE Presidents

1989-1990	Marisela Trujillo	Española. Former BE Director, Española School District.
1990-1991	Lupe Castillo	Santa Fe. Former teacher and NMPED BE Coordinator.
1991-1992	Dr. Julia Rosa Emslie	Santa Fe. Former Emeritus BE Professor, ENMU. Currently member of the Board of Director of Somos un Pueblo Unido.
1992-1993	Mary Jean Habermann Lopez	Placitas. Former NMPED BE State and Title VII Director. Former Associate Director, NMABE.
1993-1994	Dr. Ida Carrillo	Albuquerque. Former BE Professor UNM. (Deceased)
1994-1995	Dr. Rebecca Blum Martinez	Albuquerque. Former BE Professor UNM.
1995-1996	Roberto Gonzales	Taos. Former Superintendent Taos Municipal Schools. NM State Senator
1996-1997	Dr. Adela Holder	Unknown. Former BE Director Pecos School District.
1997-1998	Theresa Lucero	Los Lunas. Former BE Director Belen Public Schools



NMABE

Presidents

1998-1999	Dr. Herman Garcia	Las Cruces. Former Former BE Professor NMSU.
1999-2000	Sonia Raftery	Vaughn. Former BE Director, Dexter Public Schools.
2000-2001	Dr. Elsie Diaz	Santa Fe. Former BE Director, Las Cruces Public Schools. NMPED Licensure Coordinator
2001-2002	David Briseño	Clovis. Former BE Director, Clovis Municipal Schools. Former NMABE Executive Director.
2002-2003	Dr. Luis “Nacho Quiñones	Albuquerque. Former BE Coordinator, Pecos. Las Cruces Public Schools, and Founder de La Academia Dolores Huerta.
2003-2004	Rosalinda Carrion Altamirano	Las Cruces. Former BE Specialist Las Cruces Public Schools, and President Southern Consortium.
2004-2005	Dr. Gabriel Baca	Española, Former BE Director Pojoaque Public Schools and NMPED.
2005-2006	Rosalinda Carrión Altamirano	Las Cruces. Former BE Specialist Las Cruces Public Schools, and President Southern Consortium.
2006-2007	Dr. Julia Rosa Emslie	Santa Fe. Former Emeritus BE Professor, ENMU. Currently member of the Board of Director of Somos un Pueblo Unido.



NMABE Presidents

2007-2008	Dr. Loretta Salazar	Las Vegas. Former Emeritus Professor NMHU and Prueba Para La Certificación Bilingüe Developer.
2008-2010	Dr. Rodolfo Chavez	Española.
2010-2011	Emilia Vigil.	Former BE Director and Board Member at Jemez Mountain Schools.
2011-2012	Dr. Jesús Moncada	Former teacher, and administrator Las Cruces and Albuquerque public Schools Current Principal Christine Duncan Charter School.
2012-2013	Dr. Gladys Herrera-Gurulé	Peñasco. Former teacher, BE Director and Assistant Superintendent Peñasco Independent School District, NMPED Bilingual Director and Principal Taos Municipal Schools.
2013-2014	Florence Acque.	Zuni. Former NMPED Bilingual Specialist, Principal and Educator Zuni Public Schools.
2014-2015	Nana Encinias	Former Bilingual Coordinator , Albuquerque Public Schools. (Deceased).

NMABE Presidents

2015-2017	Victoria Tafoya	Albuquerque. Former Bilingual and Federal Programs Director, Rio Rancho Public Schools, DLeNM Director of Operations and NMABE Executive Director. Program Officer W.K Kellogg Foundation.
2016-2017	Michael Chavez	Deming. Former Bilingual and Federal programs Director, and Principal Deming Public Schools. Currently, Superintendent Hatch Public Schools.
2018-2019 2022-2023	Dr. Suzanne Jacquez Gorman	Santa Fe. Former Bilingual Education Teacher, Principal, Second Language Acquisition Coordinator, Former Co-Chair DLENM and SBAC Currently, Bilingual Coach, Santa Fe Public Schools.
2019-2020	Carmelita Lee	Farmington. Instructional Facilitator, Farmington Public Schools.
2020-2022	Judith Touloumis	Albuquerque. Principal, Albuquerque Public Schools. Carlos Rey Elementary School

NMABE Presidents

2023-2024	Rosemary Carrasco.	Carlsbad. Former Bilingual teacher and current Coordinator of Bilingual Education and Equity, Carlsbad Municipal Schools.
2024-2025	Dr. Berlinda Begay	Citizen of the Navajo Nation. Dedicated Educator and advocate for indigenous language a culture with over 28 year of experience in Indian Education.
2025-2026	Corina Alvarez	Bilingual Teacher for 11 years and moved on to administration and has held roles as an Assistant Principal and Principal for the past seven years. Corina has served for NMABE in different ways.