

NEWSLETTER – MAY 2019

fabe

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Input Survey

Tell us what you want this organization to be and what you'd like to see in these newsletters.

WELCOME TO FABE'S 1st NEWSLETTER!

And welcome to FABE! You may not be a member yet, but we hope this first newsletter will inspire you to [join us](#). FABE was created to support and inspire all those who are committed to the success of bilingual education in Florida.

Whether you are a family member, teacher, student, administrator, scholar or advocate, you have a home in this organization.



FABE members (l-r, Maria Franquiz, Maria Coady, Tony Erben, Oneyda Paneque, Eric Dwyer, Rosa Castro-Feinberg, Lourdes Rovira, Ryan Pontier) presenting at NABE 2019

In FABE's newsletters, you can expect:

news on bilingual education in our state, local updates from Florida's dual language schools, upcoming events and opportunities, featured stories profiling members and schools, resources for educators, job listings and more.

Only FABE members will receive future newsletters. Please enjoy this preview of our organization, and join FABE!

Maria Coady, PhD - President, FABE (2019-2020)

NEWS AND UPDATES

NEW WEBSITE PROFILES ALL FLORIDA DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAMS

It's not surprising that Florida has more than 100 bilingual education programs across 12 districts. What does surprise - and inspire - is this [online repository](#) - created by graduate students in UF's College of Education - which catalogues every Florida dual language program in detail through extensive research, achievement data, detailed interviews and more.

NORTH CAROLINA: A DUAL LANGUAGE SUCCESS STORY

In [Episode 42 of America the Bilingual](#), host Steve Leveen talks to six high-ranking educators on how it's not just basketball and a famous Research Triangle anymore where North Carolina is a powerhouse. It's also dual-language education.

FREE IMMIGRATION RESOURCES: PUBLIC CHARGE

TransAct Communications recently presented a webinar ([recording available](#)) and has provided an [information letter](#) on proposed changes to the federal government's Public Charge Policy. For educators, the group that the Public Charge policy most closely impacts is students in immigrant families. Dr. David Holbrook [explains](#).

IMPORTANT CONSEQUENCES FOR ELS IN FL VOUCHER PROGRAMS

In this [article](#), Dr. Rosa Castro-Feinberg identifies divergence between Florida's voucher and ESOL law, details the consequences for ELs and offers tips for examining similar laws in other states.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Diana Morales

ESOL Paraprofessional, Orange County Public Schools
19 years' experience



What is your educational role?

I work one-on-one with ELLs or newcomers in the mainstream classroom.

What brought you to this position?

When I immigrated to this country from Guatemala [as an adult], it was hard for me to learn a second language because I didn't have anyone to help me. So I made a decision that when I learned the English language, I would help others

and that was why I became a paraprofessional. I am an elementary teacher in my country.

What is your favorite part of your work?

My favorite part is to be with the kids one-on-one, helping them understand the teacher and seeing them be successful academically.

Do you have a favorite story of a student you have impacted?

I work with a student who came from El Salvador. He didn't go to kindergarten there because of the distance, so he came to the US with no Spanish literacy and no English. I not only helped him learn the language but also his personal situation since he doesn't have his mom here. Seeing him be successful made me so happy. Every time he makes a goal, it's mine too.

Why do you think bilingual education is important?

Bilingual education is important because it validates the culture of students who come from other countries. It tells the students they are important here. Also, speaking two languages activates both hemispheres of the brain and increases concentration and focus. So, it's highly beneficial on a personal and communicative level.

What do you wish others knew about your work?

We need people to know that paraprofessionals are professionals. The majority of us are teachers. I don't do lunch and bus duty. My time is 100% with the students. Also, the success of my job is because the support I have from my school is incredible. They know the importance of having a bilingual paraprofessional. They send me to trainings, to planning meetings, to meetings with teachers. They let me shine with my own light.

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 3-5, 2019 (Sarasota, Florida)

League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) Florida Convention

November 5-9, 2019 (Orlando, Florida)

Sunshine State TESOL - Southeast Regional Conference

November 13-16, 2019 (Albuquerque, New Mexico)

La Cosecha Annual Dual Language Conference

February 26-28, 2020 (Las Vegas, Nevada)

49th Annual NABE Conference

RESOURCES

Join the network and share the work! In Florida, bilingual and dual language educators have historically been on their own to translate materials and generate instructional resources. FABE members are invited to contribute and share access to resources - instructional materials, planning resources, research articles and more - that benefit us all via FABE's website.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

In this space, we will highlight career opportunities in dual language education across the state.

CALL THE GOVERNOR!

Florida's EL Students Deserve Native Language Assessments
(See [FABE Resolution #1-2019](#))

Call Governor Ron: [850-717-9337]

1. Press #2
2. Leave a voice message and thank the governor for Spanish ballots. Tell the governor that we want native language assessments for Florida's students.

FABE BOARD AND CONTACT INFORMATION

Maria Coady, PhD (President, 2019-2020) (mcoady@coe.ufl.edu)

Edwidge Bryant, EdD (President-Elect, 2019-2020) (ebryant@flagler.edu)

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Drew Long (Treasurer, 2019-2020) (drew.long@coe.ufl.edu)

HOW TO GET INVOLVED

[Please join FABE!](#) Our membership fees are low and the benefits include receipt of periodic newsletters and email blasts, annual FABE teacher/student of the year award, grant support for attendance to the state/national conference, information and resources on bilingual education and access to job postings for bilingual educator jobs across Florida.

Once a member, join a committee! We are seeking to fill committees on: Advocacy and Education, Communications and Publications, Nominations and Elections, Conference Planning and Membership. [Sign up here.](#)

FOLLOW US ON TWITTER! (@FloridaAssocia3)