



NATIONAL HISPANIC CAUCUS

A Council of NSBA

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Chairman's Message



Joe Guillen

I am very honored and excited to serve as chairman of the National Hispanic Caucus for 2004-2006. I pledge to work diligently with our members to promote and advance equal education for all students and those of Hispanic descent in particular. It is my strong belief that the Caucus can play a key role in closing the education gap by providing quality training opportunities and timely information to school board members across the country and by collaborating with other national organizations committed to the continued growth and development of our children.

I take this opportunity to thank Fernando Treviño, our past chairman, for his outstanding work over the last two years. I will rely on his expertise and leadership during my term and hope to be as effective as he has been. I also look forward to working with the Caucus Board of Directors. The quality of their leadership is outstanding and I will rely on each of them for direction and guidance. The support from NSBA staff members, Barbara Allen and Valarie Carty has been a key to our past success and I will continue to depend on them heavily.

As we set our vision for the next two years it is my hope that we expand the impact we, as a Caucus have on national policy issues; that we increase the value and benefit of belonging to the Caucus; and finally that we greatly increase our membership of school board members. In closing I ask that you join us and do your part in making our vision a reality. I urge Caucus members to pick up the phone or send me an e-mail message (guillen@newmexico.com) if you have any suggestions or issues you would like for us to address. Best wishes!

Joe Guillen

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Emerging Hispanic Populations – Hot Topic at NSBA Annual Conference in Orlando

By: Lenore Gonzales Bragaw, Central Region Director

The Hispanic Caucus gained excellent visibility at this year's NSBA Conference in Orlando by organizing two workshop sessions.

Monday afternoon's "Meet the Experts Session" featured a session entitled "Best Practices for Communities with Emerging Hispanic Populations." Eric Leys, board member from Maine Township High School District 207, Park Ridge, Illinois—a suburb of Chicago—shared his district's success with a school-based health center that serves many Hispanic students. The school based-health center is located at Maine East High School and is a partnership between Maine Township District 207 and Advocate Medical Group, in affiliation with Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. The goal of the center is to improve the physical and emotional health of students attending Maine East High School. They provide primary and preventive health services to students that are accessible, affordable and youth friendly.

In recent years, District 207 has experienced growth in its Hispanic population. Leys reported that the health center has been a great service to this population because so many families have no medical insurance. Due to this partnership, student attendance has improved. Now, instead of children missing school for health appointments, parents can bring their children to the center for treatment. Another positive aspect of the school based health center for Hispanic students is that pre-enrollment health assessments, physicals and immunizations can be done immediately, allowing little delay in beginning the learning process. For more information, interested persons can contact Eric Leys at eric@ericleys.com.

A second part of the "Best Practices" described the successful Newcomer Center established at High School District 214. Based in the Northwest suburbs of Chicago, District 214 serves over 12,000 students in six comprehensive high schools and three alternative schools.

Dennis Terdy, Director of the Newcomer Center, discussed the process they went through in assessing the need and obtaining grant money for the Center. Like many communities, District 214 has experienced a tremendous growth in their immigrant population in general and Hispanic population in particular. Staff began to see more and more students arriving with little formal education and low level language skills. A Newcomer Center was developed in order to:

- Provide a more nurturing environment to older immigrant students who may have limited prior experience with schooling.
- To address the unique literacy needs of English language learners more effectively in a small learning community with intensive instructional opportunities and a focused introduction to high school.
- To provide high school immigrant students with core academic skills and knowledge to fill gaps in their educational backgrounds and move closer to their age-level peers.

Terdy stated that after one or two semesters at the Newcomer's Center, students transfer to the comprehensive high school much better prepared for the rigors of a large high school. Initial data shows the program is working in raising the level of achievement. As more data is accumulated, the hope is that academic success will insure a lower drop out rate and better prepared students. Over 65% of the students in the center come from Mexico.

The Newcomer Center was recently profiled by the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) in their report entitled "Immigrant Students and Secondary School Reform: Compendium of Best Practices." See at www.ccsso.org.

For further information, interested persons may contact Dennis Terdy at dterdy@dist214.k12.il.us.

Hispanic Caucus Board of Directors

Joe Guillen

Joe Guillen is the chairman of the National Caucus of Hispanic School Board Members, a council of the National School Boards Association. As chairman, Guillen holds a seat on the NSBA Board of Directors. Also on the national level, Guillen has served as a delegate and an alternate at the NSBA Delegate Assembly and served on the NSBA National Elections Committee in 2003 and on the Nominations Committee in 2004. Currently he is completing his second four-year term on the Espanola Board of Education in Espanola, New Mexico, where he has served as board president. Guillen has also served as an officer, and is currently the immediate past president, of the New Mexico School Boards Association. For his dedicated service to education, Guillen was recognized as the 2003 Board Member of the Year (NM) and was president of Espanola when the board was honored as the 2001 School Board of the Year (NM). Currently, Joe is a private consultant after retiring from the New Mexico State Government after 28 years of service.



During the Caucus business meeting, the membership elected the following individuals to the Board of Directors:

First Row (left to right): Fernando Treviño, (immediate past chairman); MikeDeLaO, (treasurer); Cynthia Matus Morriss, (vice chairman); Joe Guillen, (chairman); Lilliemae Ortiz, (chairman-elect); and Reuben Roybal, (secretary).

Second Row (left to right): Anthony Valdez, (Western Region Director); Kevin Carbo, (Southern Region Director); Jeannette Santos, (Northeast Region Director); Lenore Gonzales Bragaw, (Central Region Director); and Frank Morales, (Pacific Region Director).

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Lilliemae Ortiz

Lilliemae Ortiz is the current chairman-elect of the National Caucus of Hispanic School Board Members. Ortiz is also the vice president of the New Mexico School Boards Association and her local board, Pojoaque Valley School District in Pojoaque, New Mexico. An active member in her community, she is president of her church Finance Council and maintains a private consultant organization where she provides mediation and management training, consultation and expertise. Last year, Ortiz retired from the New Mexico state government after 27 years of service to the Department of Finance and Administration.

Cynthia Matus Morriss

Cynthia Matus Morriss, is a sixteen year Patagonia Elementary School board member. She served as president of the Arizona School Boards Association in 2003 and was the first Latina association president in Arizona. Matus Morriss is immediate past president of ASBA and vice chairman of the National Hispanic Caucus.

Reuben Roybal

Reuben Roybal is the current secretary of the Caucus. On the local level, Roybal has been a member of the Pojoaque Valley School District for the past six years, where he is currently serving as board president. Within his community Roybal is very dedicated to educating his surrounding community, as well as his interest in social issues.

Mike DeLaO

Mike DeLaO is in his twelfth year at Eastern Arizona College, eleven years as head athletic trainer for men and women's sports. Previously, DeLaO spent ten years in Major League Baseball as athletic trainer for the Houston Astros, Atlanta Braves and the Detroit Tigers. He is in his second term with the Safford Unified School District serving as president in 2001 and 2003. He is serving his third year as Graham County Director for the Arizona School Boards Association. He is a member of the Arizona Interscholastic Association Committee, treasurer for the National Caucus of Hispanic School Board Members, a member of the Arizona Hispanic Caucus, and a representative to the NSBA FRN. Mike is also a member of the Safford Rotary Club and president-elect for 2004.

Fernando Treviño

Fernando Treviño is the current immediate past chairman of the Hispanic Caucus. He has been a local school board member for eight years and currently is vice president of the board of school trustees of the School City of East Chicago (IN). Treviño has also served on several national and local community boards including the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials (NALEO), NALEO's National Education Leadership Institute (NELI), the East Chicago Education Foundation, and Community in Schools (CIS). Treviño is president and owner of FMT Consulting, Inc., performing consulting services in engineering and construction management.

Frank Morales is the current regional director (Pacific) of the Caucus.

Jeannette Santos is the current regional director (Northeast) of the Caucus. Santos is no stranger to the Caucus; from 1992-93 she served as the president of the Caucus. She is a member of the Western Suffolk B.O.C.E.S. and president of the Nassau/Suffolk School Board Association. She is a member of numerous organizations including the Congressional Hispanic Advisory Committee, co-chair of the Town of Babylon Anti-Bias Task Force, Long Island United Way and co-founder of the Amityville Soccer League. Santos has received numerous awards including the Congressional Hispanic Leadership Award, the Governor's Voluntary Service Award, Latina Women of the Year, and the New York State United Teacher's Association Friends of Education Award.

Kevin Carbo is the current regional director (Southern) of the Caucus. He has been a member of the Mesquite Independent School District school board since 1996, where he is currently serving as board president. On the national level, Carbo has held numerous positions including director of the North Texas Area Association of

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School Boards, director on the Texas Association of School Boards (TASB) Risk Management Fund. In his spare time, Carbo has enjoyed coaching little league baseball and soccer and participating in ROTC weekend activities. He has been a member of the PTA since 1988 and held various positions at local and district levels.

Lenore Gonzales Bragaw is the regional director (Central) on the Caucus Board of Directors. She is a member of the High School District 214 (IL), where she was appointed to fill a vacancy. In 2001, Bragaw was officially elected to her first full term. She is an attorney and practices family law in Life-Span, a not-for-profit agency serving victims of domestic violence. Bragaw is married and has three grown sons. She has lived in Arlington Heights, Illinois, and has been active in the community for 25 years.

Message from departing Chairman, Fernando M. Treviño

I want to thank my fellow NSBA Board members and staff and Hispanic Caucus Board of Directors for all their support during my two-year term as president of the Hispanic Caucus. We accomplished many lofty tasks in route to make the Caucus more effective and an organization of substance toward our mission of improving educational opportunities for Hispanic students.

Highlights of some of our accomplishments include:

- For the past two years, we met or exceeded our goal to raise a minimum of \$20,000 for our scholarship program. This allowed the Caucus to increase scholarship giving from five awards of \$500 to five \$1,000 per year. Special thanks go to our sponsors for their continued support, which includes Altria, Aramark ServiceMaster, Sodexo, and Washington Mutual.
- We instituted operational changes to operate more effectively, which required changes to the by-laws. Those changes included changing officer terms from one year to two-year terms to enable leadership continuity over a two-year term. We required the Caucus Board of Directors to meet four times per year to assure continuous attention to action items. We gave the chairman more flexibility to travel and attend conferences and meetings related to our mission of improving educational opportunities for Hispanic children.
- We became a Council under the NSBA umbrella versus a stand alone Caucus. This helped us focus our energies toward improving educational opportunities for Hispanic children versus spending energy on administrative action items that are required of independent 501(c)3 organizations.
- For the first time in Caucus history, we developed a Policy and Resolutions Committee to submit policy and resolutions to NSBA for adoption consideration. The two resolutions submitted for consideration were both approved at the NSBA Delegate Assembly in Orlando, Florida this past April. One was related to English Language Learners and the other related to the DREAM Act. The DREAM Act supports undocumented students who graduate from our high schools that are in the U. S. through no fault of their own to continue their higher education. The NSBA advocacy department will now lobby Congress for legislation supporting both resolutions.
- We established a goal to increase Hispanic representation on the NSBA Board of Directors. Our rationale is the more representation of Hispanics on the NSBA Board; the more effective NSBA will be at understanding issues facing Hispanic children and implement improvement measures. This year I'm proud to say that my good friend Carlos Nieto was elected as the NSBA Board Regional Director for the Southern Region. I am confident Carlos will do an outstanding job.

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- We held two Hispanic Caucus membership workshops during our last two Caucus General Sessions to obtain input into our strategy and direction. As a result from membership input, the Caucus sponsored two workshops/clinics at the Annual Conference in Orlando this past April. One was related to best practices in Bilingual Education and the other was related to best practices in school districts with emerging Hispanic communities. Both sessions were well received and well attended.
- We formed partnerships with other national organizations whose mission matches ours as related to Hispanic students. We partnered with NALEO (National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials), and we began working with the NABE (National Association of Bilingual Education). NALEO has held several institutes in key cities throughout the country relating to themes such as teacher quality, higher education access, health, and No Child Left Behind. NABE gave the presentations on best practices in bilingual education in Orlando.
- We have made efforts to improve our luncheon program by scheduling dynamic keynote speakers. Rave reviews were received for our last two speakers – Dr. Juan Andrade, President of the United States Hispanic Leadership Institute, presented in San Francisco, and retired U. S. Army, Lieutenant Colonel Consuelo Castillo Kickbusch, presented in Orlando. LTC (ret.) Kickbusch became the highest-ranking Hispanic Woman in the Combat Support field of the U. S. Army.

All these accomplishments was a result of a concerted team effort from a spectrum of team players, which include NSBA Board and staff, Hispanic Caucus Board and members, NALEO, NABE, and our dedicated sponsors – Altria Group Inc., Aramark ServiceMaster, Sodexo Services, and Washington Mutual Bank.

I strongly believe we have established a Caucus of substance that adds value to NSBA with strategic and concrete actions that will help Hispanic students nationally. Joe Guillen, as your new Chairman, brings immense talent, experience, and dedication, and will no doubt do an outstanding job. I feel very confident that we have established a framework of strong leaders that will launch the Caucus to even higher achievements for years to come.

I also would like to thank the Caucus for the beautiful “Abrazo” NAMBE recognition award I received at the luncheon in Orlando. I will display it proudly in my home. Every time I look at it I will remember all the strong friendships we’ve developed, the fun we had, and the good work the Caucus has accomplished for the Hispanic children of this country. The need is great.

Thank you all for your friendship and dedication to improving public education.

God Bless,

Fernando M. Treviño
Immediate Past- Chairman

Five Scholarships Awarded!

Lilliemae G. Ortiz, National Hispanic Caucus Chairman-Elect

The National Hispanic Caucus of School Board Members (NHC) selected five young students as the recipients of their annual \$1,000 scholarship awards; one in each of the five NHC geographic regions. Selections were made on May 3, 2004, after a thorough review of all applications. Recipients were selected based on their application submission which included honors and activities information, autobiographical statement, statement of need, letters of recommendation and transcript.

National Hispanic Caucus Region Directors reviewed the applications and made their recommendations. All the applicants had various strengths which made the decisions challenging. NHC Region Directors reviewing the applications include:

Pacific Region – Frank Morales, board member, Bassett Unified School District (CA)

Western Region – Anthony F. Valdez, board member, Chama Valley Independent School District (NM)

Central Region – Lenore Gonzales Bragaw, board member, Township High SD #214 (IL)

Southern Region – Kevin Carbo, board president, Mesquite Independent School District (TX)

Northeast Region – Jeannette Santos, board member, Western Suffolk BOCES #2 (NY)

The scholarship recipients are:

Pacific Region

Wendy Zendejas, San Gorgonio High School, San Bernardino, California. Wendy is described by one of her teachers as an extremely capable person who is confident of her abilities and sets priorities for short and long-term goals while making a point to accomplish what she sets out to do. Further, she entered school speaking only Spanish, but is now able to accomplish her goals in both English and Spanish. Wendy is active in Key Club, National Honor Society, and Octagon Club; and, also serves as a Eco-Elite-Youth Leader, Bradley Lewis Tutor/Mentor, and Spartan Mentor.

Western Region

Deidra Gurule, Penasco High School, Penasco, New Mexico. Diedra has been described as a hard-working, dedicated person who takes her work seriously and has an excellent sense of responsibility to succeed. She currently is the Senior Class President and Student Council President and belongs to the Technology Student Association, MESA, Drama Club, volleyball, cheerleading, track and marching band. Diedra's goal is to interact with a variety of people and to help less fortunate people with a voice in politics and plans to study abroad and become an ambassador to a foreign country. Diedra has been admitted to the University of New Mexico.

Central Region

Nancy Elizabeth Torres, Buffalo Grove High School, Buffalo Grove, Illinois. Nancy describes herself as someone with strong people skills who loves helping out; as well as someone who shows responsibility and commitment to everything she is involved in. Her teachers portray Nancy as a positive, upbeat and personable young lady; a responsible, dedicated individual with outstanding leadership skills; and an excellent and dependable student who demonstrates a willingness to challenge herself intellectually. Nancy plans to major in Special Education with a minor in Psychology. Nancy has been accepted to Illinois State University (IL).

Southern Region

Cristal Hurtado, Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Memorial High School, Alamo, Texas. Cristal considers herself a responsible and independent person and has been described by her teachers as a courteous, outgoing, depend-

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able, very determined, and hard working individual. Her extracurricular activities include National Honor Society where she serves as the Assistant Secretary, Sociology Club, Science Club, and Student Athletic Trainer. Cristal lives with her Godparents/Guardians Adolfo and Christina Silva after the death of both her parents. She has been accepted for admission at The University of Texas-Pan American.

Northeast Region

Alvedia Hyatt, Central Islip Senior High School, New York. Alvedia is described by her teachers as a responsible, punctual, courteous, patient, personable, open-minded, ambitious, and highly motivated student who is also honest and has great integrity and empathy for others. She is a member of the Spanish Club, Leo Club, and also participates in the Hofstra University Teachers of Tomorrow Program, Dowling College Center for Minority Teacher Development and Training, a volunteer teachers' helper and on the varsity soccer team. Alvedia has been accepted to Liberty University (VA).

Caucus Partners with NABE at Annual Conference

By Joe Guillen, NHC Chairman

In an effort to become more actively engaged in national dialogue on educational issues, the National Hispanic Caucus has forged a partnership with the National Association for Bilingual Education. NABE's mission is to promote educational excellence and equity through bilingual education and they are the only national organization exclusively concerned with the education of language-minority students in American schools.

Over the last few months Hispanic Caucus and NABE representatives have shared visions and worked on several successful initiatives. We are hopeful this relationship will continue and together we can find ways to improve the quality of education for all students and for Hispanic students in particular. This article highlights NABE's enlightening participation at the NSBA Annual Conference in Orlando, Florida.

NABE President Dr. Josefina Tinajero and NABE Legislative Director Patricia Loera addressed the Caucus membership at the annual business meeting on March 28 and conducted a breakout session for conference attendees on March 29. Dr. Tinajero who is a Dean and Professor at the University of Texas at El Paso and specializes in bilingual education briefed Caucus members on the importance of bilingual education in our schools. She presented information documenting the effectiveness of dual language programs in ensuring that Limited English Proficient (LEP) students are able to succeed and excel. She went on to give examples and characteristics of successful programs across the country that can serve as models for school board members and educators to take and emulate in their communities.

Patricia Loera gave an overview of NABE's legislative activities and recent dealings with Congress and the White House focused on ensuring that LEP student needs are prioritized in legislative discussions and in the budget process. Specifically Patricia reviewed recent U.S. Department of Education policies regarding the testing of LEP students and calculating adequate yearly progress. She also provided an FY 2005 Appropriations and Budget Update and stated that Bilingual Education (Title III) funding was proposed at the same level as FY2004. NABE will be working hard to have the funding increased and also be tracking Title I, IDEA and Pell Grants to ensure they are funded at adequate levels.

The presentations by Dr. Tinajero and Ms. Loera were extremely informative and dispelled many myths about bilingual education. We are grateful to them for taking time from their busy schedules to share their expertise with us. For more information on bilingual education please see the NABE web site at www.nabe.org.