

CENTER FOR BILINGUAL STUDIES

NEWSLETTER



Eres tú, amigo libro,

ventana del mundo

y en tus páginas admiro

lo que mi vista no pudo.



NEH GRANT



UTRGV Center for Bilingual Studies director and professor for Bilingual and Literacy Studies, and Dr. Stephanie Alvarez, director of the UTRGV Center for Mexican American Studies and associate professor for Mexican American Studies, received a grant for their project, “Social Studies through Authentic and Relevant Content: Promoting Humanities Learning in Elementary Schools.”

The project aims to provide opportunity and resources for kindergarten through fifth-grade teachers to form appropriate grade-level curricula that implement local and regional history, creating culturally relevant social studies content for students in both English and Spanish.

Project “SSTARC” was granted \$99,991 for the two-year collaboration between the Center for Bilingual Studies, Center for Mexican American Studies and two local school districts - Pharr-San Juan-Alamo Independent School District and Harlingen Consolidated Independent School District.

BESO officers and members attended the 24th RGV-TABE conference at the South Padre Convention Centre, where they were able to attend different workshops and presentations were, they were able to acquire many helpful skills, tips and recommendations.

Eight TABE Board members attended and presented at the 2019 National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) Conference in Orlando, Florida in March. Presentation topics varied from current research projects to effective strategies that foster the development of biliteracy, bilingualism, and biculturalism. Texas was well represented at NABE; many of our Texas bilingual educators presenting and attending the great sessions and keynote events.

RGV TABE & NABE CONFERENCE



STRENGTHENING PARENT-SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS FOR DUAL LANGUAGE EDUCATION

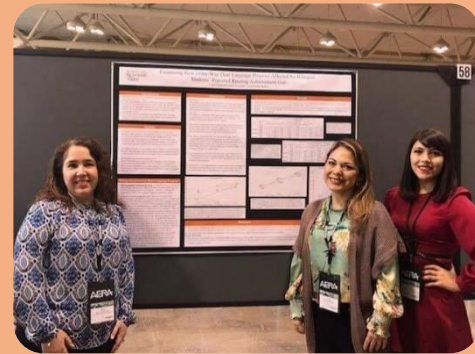
The UTRGV Center for Bilingual Studies (CBS) and RGV Parents United for Excellent Dual Education (RGV PUEDE) recently held their third annual parent conference

Half of the 135 participants were bilingual directors and principals from the seven Valley school districts/charters that offer Dual Language Education, a model that fosters true bilingualism, biculturalism and biliteracy, enhanced awareness of cultural diversity, and the highest levels of academic achievement in both English and Spanish.

The other half of the participants were parents from these same districts/charters. School districts represented included Donna ISD, Harlingen CISD, La Joya ISD, McAllen ISD, Mission ISD, Rio Grande City CISD, and Vanguard Academy. Parents from Edinburg ISD and Brownsville ISD also came to encourage their districts to begin offering Dual Language Education.

EXAMINING HOW A ONE-WAY DUAL LANGUAGE PROGRAM AFFECTED THE BILINGUAL STUDENTS' REPORTED READING ACHIEVEMENT GAP

Director for the Center for Bilingual Studies, Dr. Esquierdo and Yuridia Muñoz, Graduate Research Assistant along with Dr. Almaguer presented research findings on bilingual education at AERA Conference that was held in Toronto, Canada. The research focused on examining how one-way dual language educational programs of a school in the RGV impacted the reported achievement gap for Latino bilingual learners.



DUAL LANGUAGE CELEBRATION

The Center for Bilingual Studies hosted educational leaders from RGV school districts that implement Dual Language education. Dr. Michael Hinojosa delivered an inspiration keynote encouraging superintendents, principals, and all educators to continue the great work with all bilingual students through the enrichment of dual language education.



The Center for Bilingual studies currently focuses on researching the effectiveness of Dual language programs within the community of our school districts.

CBS PROJECTS

TORNEO DE ORTOGRAFÍA



The Torneo de Ortografía is a University of Texas Rio Grande Valley tradition. The College of Education has been hosting the torneo (Spelling Bee) for the past 15 years in order to provide bilingual students a venue to demonstrate their spelling abilities in their native language, Spanish. The torneo is the only free academic competition in Spanish for 2nd-12th grade students from the region, an area of about a 100 miles radius. The event began in 2004 with less than 50 participants from one school district and has grown since. This year, we are expecting to receive 12 school districts and more than 530 students will be competing. This year the Torneo de Ortografía will take place on May 4th, 2019 at 9am in the College of Education.

UPCOMING EVENTS

- NABE 5th Annual Dual Language Symposium
It will be held on June 27-29, 2019 in Carolina, Puerto Rico.
- 2019 Annual Conference on October 16-19
The 2019 TABE Conference will be held at the American Bank Convention Center, located in the lively downtown Marina District, Corpus Christi, TX.
- 2020 NABE Conference, Las Vegas, NV

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