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Dear NABE members and participants,

We are confident that you share the same sense of pride to have been a part of an extraordinary 43rd Annual conference "Sailing into the 21st Century with Multiple Languages, Multiple Paths, and Lifelong Advantages," in San Diego, CA. As you are aware, the "Golden State" exceeded expectations for the more than 2,000 attendees and the compelling qualitative nature of the presenters. On behalf of the National Association for Bilingual Education Board of Directors, we thank you for demonstrating your commitment and passion for the academic success of our Dual Language Learners (DLLs), teachers, leaders, and families with your presence throughout the year and during our annual conference.

Our conference featured internationally renowned keynoters, including Alma Flor Ada, Luis Cruz, Consuelo Kickbush and Libia Gil, U.S. Assistant Deputy Secretary of Education and Director of the Office of English Language Acquisition. The conference also featured a stellar lineup of high ranking political, governmental, policy leaders, national corporate sponsors, exhibitors and supporters. Participants had the opportunity to interact, network and to engage with national and international leaders who were successful in implementing large scale, cutting edge, education reforms and research all the way from Alaska to South America. There were numerous professional development strands for teachers and best practices for helping ELLs meet the Common Core Standards; preparing for the new assessments; career readiness; dual language enrichment education (DLE); college stem; seal of biliteracy; dealing with business expectations in a global marketplace; and certification and continuing education for bilingual teachers. Participants gained many practical recommendations for immediate use in the classrooms, schools and districts.

We witnessed a powerful NABE/CABE Pre-Conference that focused on best practices and exemplary bilingual education and dual language enrichment programs (DLE) and the Seal of Biliteracy in California, Florida, Texas, Illinois and New York. The Global Leadership Forum was also very compelling as Superintendents and heads of associations, corporate leaders and higher education experts from across the nation engaged participants in a dialogue on preparing our youth for global competitiveness and discussions on policy implications for bilingual education and school to career readiness. Throughout the 3-day conference, there were many exemplary highlights of successful bilingual education and dual language enrichment programs, including an exemplary student panel from a Texas school district that had implemented a districtwide dual language program. "The Bilingual Teacher of the Year" Awards Luncheon recognized teachers and student winners from all three levels of K-12 education from across the country. The Embassy of Spain provided a fully paid scholarship to the Bilingual Teacher of the Year winner along with the Eva Helwing and Jose Marti Foundations. The three recipients of the coveted annual awards for exemplary and scholarly work in the field of bilingual education included, Alma Flor Ada with the Mexican Government "Ohtli Award," Eugene Garcia with the "Ramon Santiago Award," and our Executive Director, Santiago Wood, was awarded the first prestigious "Orden de Isabel la Católica" by the government of Spain. The school site visits of exemplary dual language programs in San Diego County Schools captured the imagination of the more than 100 who participated. And the Parent Institute was also exceptional. During our conference, there was one compelling and deliberate message that was very loud and clear from the international presence, professionals, research scholars and corporate sector, **Bilingual Education, Dual Language Education, and Biliteracy** provide the greatest advantage for students as an important ingredient to success and global competitiveness for all. Many of the presenters urged the President to place high importance on the linguistic and biliteracy diversity of this nation and to fully fund implementation of such programs in Pre-K-8 grades so that it will enhance our cultural pluralist society and global competitiveness. NABE was urged to provide a list of recommendations to the President and the Secretary of Education detailing the importance of language diversity and biliteracy as key assets to this nation and to include appropriate steps that should be taken to strengthen the pipeline for high quality bilingual and diversity teachers and programs on a scalable level.

Let's continue to promote academic excellence through innovation. Our students deserve the opportunity to become bilingual and biliterate or multilingual practitioners in the fields of medicine, pedagogy, law, engineering, business, etc. These skill sets will only open the doors for international discourse, and give the United States of America the competitive edge on a path towards prosperity in social, political and economic development.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our sponsors, vendors and exhibitors for supporting NABE with its vision and mission. Furthermore, NABE Affiliates and SIGs in partnership with the new NABE/Rourke initiative will be hosting conferences, webinars, and great opportunities for networking across the nation and hope that everyone takes advantage of these opportunities. NABE also invites your participation in a planned 2-day Institute on Dual Language Instruction in Puerto Rico in early Fall. Please look for additional information on our web page and sign up early. Finally, we remind you to mark your calendars to join us once more for the 44th Annual International Bilingual Education Conference in Las Vegas, NV on March 1-8, 2015. Please submit your presentations as early as possible.

Si se pudo!

Dr. Leo Gomez, President

Dr. Santiago Wood, Executive Director