

● NEWSLETTER ●

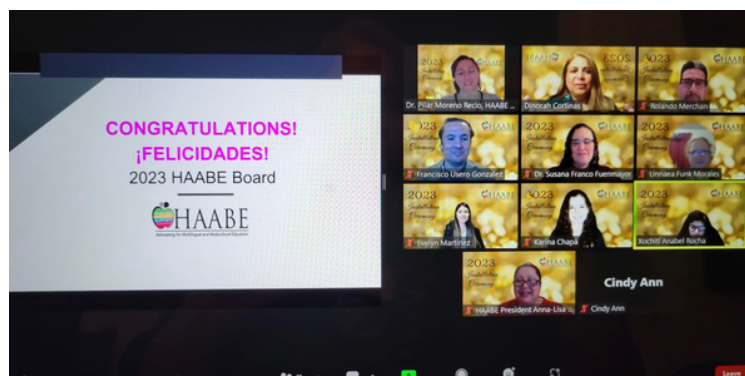


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NEW BOARD MEMBERS ARE OFFICIAL!

The new Houston Area Association of Bilingual Education (HAABE) board was officially named on January 26, 2023 in an installation ceremony. Dr. Xóchitl Anabel Rocha, TABE President, and Karina Chapra, TABE Executive Director, were present to welcome the new board members, as they shared the history of the Texas Association of Bilingual Education (TABE). It is a history that has led to advocacy for language minority children and the institutionalization of bilingual education in Texas schools. TABE has left a legacy of activism. However, TABE cannot fight these battles alone. It relies on its affiliates, like HAABE, to continue to promote bilingual education across the state and create bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural students. The HAABE board is excited to meet this challenge, but we need your help. We need you to encourage your colleagues and friends to join HAABE as well. We need you to advocate for bilingual education. We need you to become active members and join us in the fight. As Albert Villarreal, the first TABE president, once asked at the birth of TABE in 1972, "Are you willing to work hard and trek a long journey on behalf of bilingual education?" Your board challenges you to take his call to action!



A MESSAGE FROM DR. PILAR MORENO-RECIO, HAABE PRESIDENT

Dear Houston Area Association for Bilingual/ESL Education (HAABE) Fans!

We are already off to a great start with an amazing 2023 HAABE Board. Congratulations to all of them! I am honored to work with such a dedicated and passionate HAABE board who strives to serve and support the education of linguistically and culturally diverse students in the Houston area. This year we want to dream a little bigger porque el que la sigue la consigue, or where there is a will, there is a way.

HAABE dreams of unity and cohesiveness in the promotion of Bilingual/Multilingual Education. We want to thank every HAABE member for their support throughout the years, and we are launching a call to our future members to join the HAABE movement at www.haabe.org and to follow us on our social media platforms. HAABE collaborates and works closely with the Texas Association for Bilingual Education (TABE) as two of our HAABE board members have a seat at the state level organization. We also collaborate with the National Association for Bilingual Education (NABE) in the advocacy and promotion of bilingual/multicultural education. We know that together we are stronger. Juntos we will continue to support the development and influence of positive public opinion about bilingual/multilingual education.

The start of this 2023 year has been a busy one for your HAABE board. Participants who were in attendance at the February 4, 2023 HAABE Winter Professional Learning Event at the University of Saint Thomas in Houston were delighted to learn from our dynamic ESL expert, Carlene Thomas. In addition, attendees were in for a treat as they got to learn from and see first-hand the enormous expertise and passion of our 2022 HAABE Teachers of the Year.

The HAABE Board invites you to the 2023 HAABE Teacher of the Year (TOY) Banquet that will take place on April 29, 2023 at the Hilton University of Houston at 11:00 a.m. The board is diligently preparing a memorable event where we will recognize excellence in education and honor the elementary Bilingual and ESL teachers, as well as ESL secondary teachers of the year from different school districts around the Houston area. Furthermore, during our HAABE TOY Banquet, we are honored to recognize former or current senior emergent bilingual students by providing them with our HAABE Tanya Thompson Scholarships.

Your board continues to strategically plan so that HAABE, your professional growth and network platform, can provide you with opportunities to experience first-hand the work behind social justice, and advocacy for culturally and linguistically diverse students and families. We encourage you to become a HAABE fan today. Thank you for following all of the HAABE updates and upcoming events for the year on social media. Stay tuned! ¡Sintonízanos!



Sincerely,
Pilar Moreno-Recio, Ed. D.

MEET THE 2023 EXECUTIVE BOARD



Dr. Pilar Moreno-Recio President

Dr. Pilar Moreno-Recio's experience spans more than 20 years in education. Her world-wide education includes being an educator in three countries: Spain, Ireland, and the USA. She has worked as an elementary bilingual and secondary ESL teacher and instructional coach of PK-12 teachers and administrators. She has served in instructional leadership positions at the school level, as well as in district level executive and administrative positions across Texas. Dr. Moreno has worked as an adjunct professor for the University of Houston, Main Campus in the area of Bilingual/ESL Methodologies. Dr. Moreno-Recio currently works as the Assistant Superintendent of Teaching and Learning in Plainview ISD.

In addition to her principal and superintendent certifications, Dr. Moreno-Recio holds a master's degree in English Language Arts and Literature from the University of Extremadura, Spain, and a masters' degree in Educational Leadership from the University of Texas at Tyler. She also has a doctorate in Educational Leadership with a specialization in curriculum and instruction from the University of Houston-Clear Lake. Her research focused on school leadership and the impact of standards and assessment on all leaders' efficacies and emergent bilinguals' language growth. She also has published research articles on the importance of student agency by empowering students to monitor, own, and celebrate their own learning through student-led conferences.

Dr. Moreno-Recio has received many accolades during her career such as 2004-2005 Tyler ISD Campus Teacher of the Year, 2005 Teacher of the Month, 2018 Goose Creek CISD Central Office Administrator of the Year, and 2021 Central Office Giant of the Month. Dr. Moreno-Recio is very active in the community and different organizations she serves voluntarily. She has been married to her husband for 16 years and they have a ten-year-old son.

Lisa Anguiano, M.ED Past President

Lisa Anguiano has served both emergent bilingual and special education students and their parents in Houston ISD, Spring ISD, and Klein ISD. She has worked in both the elementary and secondary level, as well as at the district level. She currently serves as the diagnostician in a high school in Klein ISD. Anguiano earned a bachelor's degree in education and a master's degree in supervision both from the University of St. Thomas. Her roots in bilingual education began in college when she was a member of the Bilingual Education Student Organization (BESO). She has been active in HAABE for years as a member and then part of the board as a parliamentarian, Vice President, President, and now Past President. She is a proud wife, mother, mother-in-law, and grandmother of four.



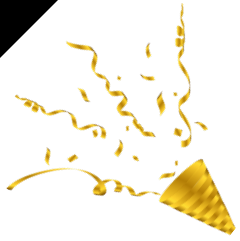
Dr. Susana Franco Mayor Vice President

Dr. Susana Franco-Fuenmayor currently serves as the Director of Bilingual Education in the Pearland Independent School District. She has 22 years of experience in education in various roles including dual language teacher, mentor, field experience supervisor, Bilingual/ESL teacher trainer, educational researcher, program evaluator, and university faculty. Franco-Fuenmayor holds a doctorate degree in educational psychology with an emphasis in bilingual education from Texas A&M University, a master's degree in bilingual/ESL education from the University of Saint Thomas and a bachelor's degree in elementary education with a minor in Spanish from the University of Saint Thomas.

Her passion for creating quality educational opportunities for culturally and linguistically diverse students guides her work to ensure that students not only become bilingual, but also become biliterate and bicultural. She focuses on promoting excellence for students' lifelong success and supporting teachers and administrators in bilingual education programs. Her research has focused on the professional development and training for second language pre-service and in-service teachers, as well as the importance of academic language development for second language learners. She has presented her research at various conferences and has published her research in peer-reviewed journals.

Dr. Franco-Fuenmayor is very active in local, state and national organizations. In addition to serving for HAABE, she also serves as the Bilingual/ESL Representative on the Texas Association of Bilingual Education (TABE) Executive Board and strongly believes that local affiliates are the most important part of what makes up TABE to ensure that all stakeholders are aware of key implications for teachers of emergent bilingual students.

MEET THE 2023 EXECUTIVE BOARD



Parliamentarian



Do you want to advocate for Emergent Bilingual students? Are you interested in furthering teachers' knowledge through professional development? Do you have a desire to recognize excellent teaching in the Houston area? How about providing deserving students with a scholarship? We need your leadership! Apply now or nominate a deserving colleague for the HAABE Executive Board Parliamentarian. We look forward to you joining our team!



Cindy Bárcenas, M.Ed. Treasurer

Cindy Bárcenas began her career as an English teacher in Aldine ISD working with mainstream, special education, and emergent bilingual students. She then worked as the 9-12 Lead ESL teacher at Pearland High School. She currently serves in Pearland ISD as a Dual Language/ESL Specialist. Throughout her career she received a variety of accolades, including Pearland ISD Secondary ESL Teacher of the Year for 2018-2019, HAABE Secondary ESL Teacher of the Year 2018-2019, and TABE Secondary ESL Teacher of the Year 2018-2019. Bárcenas earned a Bachelor's degree in English with a minor in Women's and Gendered Studies from Texas A&M University and a Master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Texas A&M University. When she is not busy working and giving her time to HAABE, she enjoys spending time with her husband and two children.

Evelyn Martinez, M.Ed. Recording Secretary

Evelyn Martinez is a committed educator who is currently an Education Specialist in the Literacy and Language Department at the Region 4 Education Service Center. Prior to joining Region 4, she held several roles and experiences in the education field which include teaching, instructional coaching, administration, and policy focusing on supporting multilingual learners and families. She is currently serving as the Regional Captain for Ed Centro, a platform for the non-profit organization, Latinos for Education. Advocating for students, educators, and families of underserved populations, including Emergent bilinguals, has been and continues to be her number one priority in her personal and professional life. Evelyn earned her Bachelor of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies with Bilingual Certification from the University of Houston Downtown and her Master of Education in Leadership with a Principal certification from Sam Houston State University.



MEET THE 2023 EXECUTIVE BOARD



Linnaea Funk Morales, M.Ed. Corresponding Secretary

Linnaea Funk has been an integral part of HAABE for several years, serving as the Corresponding Secretary on the board for 5 years. She attained a Bachelor of Arts in Spanish from Linfield College and a Master of Education degree in Bilingual/Dual Language Education from the University of St Thomas. She began her career in Houston ISD before moving to Eagle Point School District. She currently teaches kindergarten in a dual language program in Phoenix-Talent School District in Oregon and tutors students in PK-12 in all subjects. Though she currently lives in Oregon, she has continued to show her dedication to HAABE by working remotely and flying back and forth between Oregon and Texas to serve at special events.

Dr. Francisco Usero González Webmaster/Social Media

Francisco Usero González holds multiple Education B.A. and M.Ed. degrees. His research interests as a Curriculum and Instruction faculty member at Sam Houston State University include multilingual and multicultural education and the many models and programs at all levels. Through the innovative use of instructional technology, he is particularly interested in investigating culturally and linguistically responsive approaches to assisting Latinx bilingual students' education and development, as well as the role of socio-cultural factors on family engagement in varied school communities. Through his scientific studies and teaching experience, both nationally and internationally, he expanded his knowledge and experience in the areas of biliteracy program design and implementation, as well as world languages. Usero-González has also acquired an interest in the Multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) for emergent bilingual pupils who struggle with literacy development and Spanish-speaking students with dyslexia. Dr. Usero González has participated in national and international educational conferences and published several papers in international educational journals.



Dr. Rolando Merchán Public Relations

Rolando Merchán began his career in education in 2004 when he moved to Houston from Bogotá, Colombia. He went through an alternative certification program with Pasadena ISD in partnership with Saint Thomas University and began teaching a fourth grade bilingual class. While engaging in research for his master's degree in curriculum and instruction in bilingual education, he focused on dual language education. Merchán's doctoral dissertation addressed teachers' language ideologies and the development of biliteracy. He has been an active member of different TEA committees, including Proclamations for language arts and mathematics, item revision and range finder committees for reading and writing, and the Texas Dual Language Guidance Committee. He became a dual language Spanish coach for a campus before teaching a fourth grade dual language class and served as the instructional coach and program manager for the same school as it transitioned from a 50/50 to an 80/20 dual language model. In 2013, Merchán became district instructional specialist for Bilingual/ ESL 4-6 and Dual Language for K-8. In this role, he led a team in developing a dual language curriculum for K-4, provided onboarding training for teachers and administrators new to dual language, created and facilitated staff development for all dual language teachers, presented at several regional, state, and national conferences, and moved the elementary grade levels in his district to gradually implementing the Bridge. In 2019, he began a new phase in his career serving as the District Coordinator for Bilingual/ ESL and DL, and in 2021, he became the Multilingual Director for the same district. Merchán is not only a board member of HAABE, but TABE as well.



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Dinorah Cortinas Galvan, M. Ed. Professional Development

Dinorah Cortinas Galvan is an immigrant from Monterrey, Mexico. She graduated with a bachelor's degree in Communications from Tecnológico de Monterrey. She owned a daycare in Mexico, and this is when she discovered her passion for education. When she learned about the need for bilingual teachers in the US to help educate Hispanic immigrants in elementary schools, she earned her alternative certification from Region 4 Education Service Center (ESC). In 2016, Cortinas Galvan began her career in education as a bilingual teacher in Alief ISD. She also had the opportunity to teach in the dual language program in this same school district. She earned a master's degree in education with a major in management of educational institutions at the Universidad Regiomontana. Currently, Cortinas Galvan serves as an educational specialist for Region 4 ESC. She collaborates with school districts to determine instructional and support services and opportunities for migratory students and out-of-school youth based on their identified needs and assists them in achieving their full potential. She also provides training and technical assistance to local education agencies to support emergent bilingual students and students with disabilities.



Shehla Merchant, M.Ed. BESO Representative

Shehla Merchant is an education consultant that is passionate about early childhood education in low socioeconomic areas. As the owner of three childcare centers in low-income areas, with two centers that consist of majority bilingual families, it is important for her to be all inclusive of all families. She blends her business consulting with her experience as a Business Analyst with a Green Belt in Lean Six Sigma from her 15 years at NASA and her education in communication and early childhood education. Currently, she is pursuing a Ph.D. in curriculum and instruction with a specialization of early childhood education. Her future goal is to do research that can help low-income childcare centers thrive despite their challenges.



Katherine Anderson, M.Ed. Newsletter Editor

Katherine Anderson began her career as a bilingual teacher in Aldine ISD and was named Aldine ISD Bilingual Teacher of the Year in 2006. Soon after, she was promoted to Elementary Multilingual Program Director. She later served as the assistant principal for Hinojosa EC/PreK Center where she was able to work closely with bilingual and ESL students along with their families in the Head Start program. When the opportunity presented itself, she moved to Houston ISD in order to be part of the dual language program both professionally and personally. Her son has been in a dual language program for seven years now, and she is proud to say he is bilingual, biliterate, and bicultural. In Houston ISD, she has served as a Program Specialist, Dual Language Manager, and Senior Manager in the Multilingual Department. Katherine earned her Bachelor of Science in Interdisciplinary Studies with Bilingual and Reading Certification and a minor in Spanish from Texas A&M- Corpus Christi and her Master's degree in Education Leadership with a Principal Certification from Sam Houston State University. Her interests include bilingual education, early childhood education, literacy instruction, and the design and delivery of professional development. Her current passion project is the development and implementation of the CBLLI Academy for Teachers, a five session professional development series that includes in classroom coaching for more than 200 HISD teachers.

