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Letter to NYSABE Members and Friends

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New York State Association for Bilingual Education

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2009-2010

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March 11, 2010

Dear NYSABE Members and Friends,

It is with immense professional pride that I join NYSABE's president, Margarita Reyes, in presenting to you the Journal of Multilingual Education Research (JMER).

The linguistic and cultural diversity in New York State schools continues to expand while English language learners are faced with increasing educational demands. Consequently, educators must strive to develop and sustain quality educational settings where optimum research-based pedagogical practices can prepare all ELLs to meet the new demands of the 21st century.

In this regard, NYSABE aims at supporting its members' efforts by offering them the inaugural issue of JMER. Through its outstanding research articles, JMER reaffirms NYSABE's mission to foster *the awareness and appreciation of bilingualism and biculturalism as an integral part of cultural pluralism in our society*. Further, JMER reaffirms NYSABE's commitment to its goals:

- 1. To promote the establishment, maintenance, and expansion of quality bilingual education programs as a means to ensure equitable educational opportunities for all students.*
- 2. To promote bilingual education as an educational process by which academic success of students is ensured through instruction in the students' native language and English. For students who are native speakers of English, instruction is provided in English and a second language.*
- 3. To foster the recognition by the entire community of the importance of bilingualism and its contributions toward a better understanding of the cultural and linguistic differences among people.*

As I reiterate my commitment to NYSABE's goals, I wish to congratulate and thank Dr. Aida Nevárez-La Torre for her professional leadership, scholarship, and commitment to the development of JMER. I also wish to acknowledge the diligent work of JMER's Editorial Advisory Board and researchers in ensuring for all NYSABE members a research journal of the highest scholarly level.

Sincerely,

Nancy Villarreal de Adler
Executive Director

33rd Annual Conference

"Bilingual Education: A Pathway to Multicultural and Multilingual Learning Communities"

March 11 – March 14, 2010

Huntington Hilton Hotel, Melville, New York