

CABTE

California Association for Bilingual Teacher Education

March 10, 2021

TO: Jan Gustafson-Corea, CEO, CAFE
CAFE Board Members

FROM: Sharon Merritt, Ph.D.
President, CABTE

RE: CABTE Report to the CAFE Board, December 2020-March 2021

Please accept my quarterly report on CABTE's activities. It has continued to be a busy season for CABTE and its Board. CABTE continues to pursue its mission through its IHE members, as well as through our association with CCFE and CAFE, and the other strategic organizations our members are connected with.

At our annual Board retreat in July 2020, Sharon introduced four areas of focus for her term as President, reflecting the work begun and in progress as she assumed the position: Advocacy, Strategy, Scholarship, and Organization

These are some of CABTE's activities over the last quarter in each area:

Advocacy

Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CTC)

Ivannia Soto and Sharon Merritt have regularly attended virtual Commission meetings to track CTC activity related to bilingual education and teacher preparation. At the February 2021 meeting, the Commission heard a report from the Bilingual Authorization (BILA) Standards revision working group (see below) and took comments from the public. Both Ivannia and Sharon made comments regarding the revised standards, the Bilingual Teacher Performance Expectations (BTPEs) and specifically about the importance of including a robust clinical practice (field work) component in all the pathways for completing the BILA. There are some significant challenges to work out as CTC staff Miranda Gutierrez and Iyore Osamwonye meet with CABTE Board members on March 11 to discuss our response to the revisions.

Bilingual Authorization Standards Revision Working Group

The initial work of the BILA Standards revision working group is complete with the submission of their report to the CTC. However, members of our Board who serve on the working group will continue to work on responses to the issues raised by the Commission members regarding elements of the BILA standards, particularly the role of clinical practice through field work.

CABTE is an associated organization of CCFE and an affiliate of CAFE.



Replacing RICA

For several months, work has been going on in the background on new legislation regarding replacing RICA with an authentic assessment to be developed by the CTC. Just recently, Martha Zaragoza Diaz presented CABTE leaders with several new bills, including SB 488, related to the work of the Coalition and negotiations taking place with the dyslexia community to satisfy all parties as legislation moves forward. CABTE has indicated support for SB 488, which proposes a timeline and process for replacing the RICA and how pre-service teachers may be allowed to demonstrate competency in reading instruction between now and 2025 when the bill proposes that CTC will have prepared a new reading instruction assessment.

Bilingual issues and CalTPA

The document prepared by CABTE leaders providing guidance on issues related to the CalTPA remains available on the CTC TPA website. However, the training for bilingual assessors has yet to be scheduled, as far as CABTE knows.

Strategy

California Council for Teacher Education (CCTE)

CCTE's spring Board meeting will take place on March 19, and CABTE will make its regular report at that time. Sharon Merritt is representing CABTE on the planning committee for the CCTE Fall Conference, which may return to San Diego this fall, or be held virtually. She and Ivannia Soto (new CCTE board member and co-chair of the CCTE Equity and Social Justice Special Interest Group) are proposing co-sponsoring a Saturday session focusing on issues related to language and social justice.

CABTE Strategic Plan

In January 2021, the Strategic Plan working group (Eduardo Muñoz Muñoz, Clara Amador Lankster, Adam Sawyer, Elsie Solis Chang) will report to the Board their recommendations for CABTE's initiatives and activities for the next five years. The working group presented initial thoughts to the Board in February and continues its work toward presenting the plan to membership at our May meeting.

Renewing/Expanding CABTE/CABE Membership

One of our efforts this year involves continuing to urge CABTE members to renew their CABE/CABTE individual memberships and to ask their Deans to renew their institutional memberships in CABTE. Reminders will go out at each CABTE membership meeting. We continue to request individual CABTE members to renew their CABE memberships and indicate their renewal of membership in CABTE as well. We would like to work with CABE to make the renewal of CABTE membership more accessible to members when they renew CABE membership.

Supporting BILA IPRs, expanding BILA programs at IHEs/LEAs: Addressing barriers to program development

We are also committed this year to continuing to support current Bilingual Authorization (BILA) programs in their ongoing development and to expand the number of BILA programs, particularly at private IHEs. CABTE will continue to help address CTC's need for IHE reviewers for new BILA program proposals. We will be taking this topic up in February. Recently, Margarita Machado-Casas met with Sharon Merritt and Lyn Scott to discuss CABTE participation in the MCAP grant, and will follow up with a second meeting, including Ivannia Soto, to discuss the BILA program framework that will proceed from the revised BILA standards and BTPes, and possible work toward presentation of various program models current and prospective programs might consider as they contemplate program development.

CCTE Professional Development for Mentor Teachers Project (formerly Intersegmental Project)

The committee responsible for the Project, an online training program for mentor teachers and pre-service teacher supervisors, has requested the assistance of CABTE in inserting material specifically for pre-service teacher district mentor teachers in bilingual placements, both throughout the existing training modules, and in a new module specifically for teachers in Bilingual Authorization program placements. Grace Cho, Sharon Merritt, and Clara Amador-Lankster will work with CCTE on this project.

Scholarship

CABTE Book Club:

The Book Club, led by once again by Nirmla Flores, has continued meeting this winter, focusing discussions on the following book: **Coaching Teachers in Bilingual and Dual Language**

Classrooms (Guilamo, A. 2019) https://www.amazon.com/Coaching-Teachers-Bilingual-Dual-Language-Classrooms/dp/1949539237/ref=sr_1_2?crid=38HH4NIGNZE3&dchild=1&keywords=coaching+teacher+s+in+bilingual+and+dual+language+classrooms&qid=1601912789&s=books&sprefix=coaching+teacher%2Cstripbooks%2C198&sr=1-2 This group promotes the work we want to do to keep up with recent scholarship and explore current themes in bilingual teacher education and practice. We will be discussing continuing with other books after we complete the current text.

CABTE at CBE 2021

Pre-conference Institute, April 2021

Despite continued interest in and commitment to the concept of a pre-conference institute co-sponsored by CBE and CABTE, CABTE leadership decided to fully commit to the Graduate Research Symposium this year, and to consider holding the institute again in 2022.

Graduate Research Symposium

Rhianna Casesa has agreed to coordinate this event and will work with CABTE officers and CBE staff to make arrangements, organize and recruit participants. A total of seven graduate students will participate in a roundtable session on Thursday, March 25, 4:00-5:30 pm. The following students will participate: Michelle Rhone, Paola Perez, Jannette Sandoval, Peiying Xiang, Josefina Andrade, Ariana Peña, and Anab Hossain

Organization

CABTE Membership Meetings

We continued our monthly meeting schedule for the academic year 2020-2021. We have seen smaller attendance this winter by our members, and in response, have changed the format for our meetings. In February, we presented the BILA standards revision to members in a special focused meeting during our regular meeting time. For March, our meeting took place as part of CCTE's Spring Policy Action Network (SPAN) conference, and Sharon invited two special speakers to present on the intersection of English learner and bilingual education policy and the role of parent communities in local bilingual education policy matters. Drs. Anaida Colon Muñoz (Chapman University, CBE, CCTE) and Alberto Ochoa (SDSU, PIQE) provided a stimulating, inspiring, and much appreciated "charla" with our members on March 3.

CABTE Board

This year we will hold elections for Secretary and President-elect in May. Nirmla Flores (U of Redlands) has indicated her interest in continuing in the position of Secretary and Eduardo Muñoz-Muñoz (SJSU) has stepped forward to run for President-elect. We will accept nominations until April 1 and hold our election before our May meeting, the last for this academic year.

We hope to hold the summer Board retreat face-to-face, perhaps in the Monterey area.

CABTE Communications Committee

At the annual Board retreat, we formed our subcommittee on Communications to guide our use of social media, continue to refine our website, and respond rapidly to the need for CABTE communications on various issues. Nirmla Flores and Elsie Solis-Chang (Point Loma U., Bakersfield) are taking charge of the committee. The Board has approved the use of Wix as our new web platform, and Nirmla is working on our new design. Elsie is preparing our social media policy documents with an eye to beginning to post CABTE content within the next two months.

CABTE Board, 2020-2021

The members of the Executive Board are:

Sharon Merritt, Fresno Pacific University (President, 2020-2022)
Grace Cho, CSU, Fullerton (Treasurer 2020-2022)
Nirmla Flores, University of Redlands (Secretary, 2019-2021)
Lyn Scott, CSU East Bay (Past President, 2020-2021)
Eduardo Muñoz-Muñoz, San Jose State University
Elsie Solis-Chang, Point Loma Nazarene University
Michelle Soto-Peña, CSU, Stanislaus
Maria E. Valdéz, Farmersville USD
Clara Amador-Lankster, National University
Adam Sawyer, CSU, Bakersfield
Magaly Lavadenz, Loyola Marymount University, CEEL (ex-officio)
Ivannia Soto, Whittier College and CAFE (ex-officio)
Alan Jones, CTE Executive Secretary (ex-officio)