



REGION V
REPRESENTATIVE NOMINEE

Dr. Sarah Zepeda

Personal Statement:

My personal experience as an English learner has shaped both my passion and my deep empathy in the pursuit of equity for English learners. Growing up in Torrance, California—at a time when there were few Latinos in the city—my family faced significant challenges. My parents lacked both the education and the language skills to navigate the school system. My mother spoke only Spanish, and my father, though born in Torrance, was always working to support us. I entered school unable to speak or read in English. As a result, my family was told that I needed to repeat Kindergarten. I was sent several times a week to the district office to “listen and repeat” English phrases from a machine that used magnetic strip cards. I remember feeling ashamed of being Mexican American and wanting desperately to be like my White peers. I knew from an early age that I was different.

These experiences fostered a lifelong connection to newcomers and English learner students—connections that continue to shape my leadership today. I value education deeply. I earned a BA in Business Finance and went on to complete two master’s degrees in Humanities and Education. With the support of my late husband, I pursued and earned a Doctorate in Education from USC in 2017. Becoming an advocate for English learners is more than a professional role, it is a calling. My family’s story fuels my unwavering commitment to equity, and I continually seek opportunities to uplift others and inspire them to actively support the academic growth and success of English learners. This is why CUBE is so important to me. It provides a community of like-minded individuals who share the same vision—to transform lives through knowledge and education. Being part of CUBE allows me to collaborate with others who are equally dedicated to creating equitable and empowering educational experiences for English learners.



2025 CABE BOARD OF DIRECTORS ELECTION

Ballot Statement:

It has been an honor to serve on the CABE Board as the Region V Representative over the past two years. I am seeking re-election to continue advocating for and advancing the CABE mission. My deepest desire is to represent the incredible community of Region V and to stand with an organization that is dedicated to improving the quality of life for our underserved populations. I remain fully committed to working alongside the CABE Familia to promote, inspire, and carry out the essential work needed to fulfill our shared vision and mission.

Ha sido un honor y un privilegio formar parte de la Junta Directiva de CABE como Representante de la Región V durante los últimos dos años. Estoy en busca de la reelección para seguir defendiendo e impulsando la misión de CABE. Mi mayor deseo es representar a la increíble comunidad de la Región V, apoyando a una organización dedicada a mejorar la calidad de vida de nuestras poblaciones marginadas. Mantengo mi firme compromiso de trabajar junto a la Familia CABE para promover, inspirar y llevar a cabo la labor esencial necesaria para cumplir nuestra visión y misión.