



This month, CABE celebrates...



Upcoming CABE Dates and Deadlines in this Issue...

- June 16-22—[2nd Annual Multilingual and Intercultural Education Conference](#) in Oaxaca
- June 30–July 3—[MEDLI 2025](#) in Las Vegas

Find out what happening in Sacramento that impacts education...



CABE Legislative Advocate Report by Jennifer Baker

- Governor Releases May Revision
- LAO Reviews May Revision
- CABE-Supported Legislation
- Legislative Calendar

[Read Report](#)

Upcoming professional learning opportunities....

Las Vegas | June 30-July 3, 2025



Unlock the Power of Language!

Connect with educators and leaders from across the country for **MEDLI 2025** in **Las Vegas**— four powerful, transformative days of collaboration, professional learning, and inspiration.



**Have you made your
hotel reservations?**

RESERVE HOTEL

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Monday, June 30



Dr. Susana Ibarra-Johnson

Assistant professor and Author

Tuesday, July 1



Montserrat Garibay

*Former Assistant Deputy Secretary & Director of the Office
of English Language Acquisition, US Department of Education*

Wednesday, July 2



Dr. Ayanna Cooper

Consultant, Author & Editor

Some Institute Topics Include:



**Leadership Strategies for Sustaining
Multilingual Education**



**School and District Leadership in
Dual Language Education**



**Early Childhood Dual
Language Education**



**Establishing A New Dual
Language Program**

No Funds, No Problem! Here is How You Can Attend:

CLICK HERE FOR
MORE FUNDING INFO



Reserve Your Spot!

Register Now for the
full 4-day institute

REGISTER HERE

Book Your Lodging at Resorts World Las Vegas



BOOK HOTEL

Fly Southwest for Exclusive Travel Discounts

Spots are limited—register early to save
your place and secure the best rates!

RESERVE FLIGHT

In partnership with:



cabepds.gocabe.org

<https://gocabe.org/medli2025/>

Visit our
Website

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION FOR BILINGUAL EDUCATION

Second Annual Multilingual and Intercultural Education Conference

OAXACA



June 16-22, 2025 | Oaxaca, Mexico

Explore Oaxaca with CABE – June 16–22, 2025!

Join fellow educators for CABE's second annual trip to Oaxaca, Mexico—a powerful week of cultural learning, professional growth, and connection with local schools and communities.

Ready to
Register



Don't miss this unforgettable professional learning opportunity!

[Click Here for More Info](#)

Meet María Larios-Horton...



**Lifelong Advocate
for Language, Justice, and
Community**

From Guadalajara to the Santa Ynez Valley

Born in Guadalajara, México, María Larios-Horton immigrated with her parents to the United States as a toddler. María grew up on a ranch in the Santa Ynez Valley along with her two younger siblings, just down the road from President Ronald Reagan's ranch. Coincidentally, it was thanks to this president's amnesty program, that the family became naturalized residents in the late 1980's. At home, her family spoke only Spanish, and María became the de facto interpreter and translator for her household which were early signs of a lifelong calling, "It made me grow up fast, and that part wasn't fun," she recalls, "but having to do it is what made me biliterate." She also typed letters to relatives in Mexico—early signs of her future in education.

The Early Years

María began school as an English learner. When school staff couldn't pronounce her given name, Lupita (a nickname for Guadalupe), they called her María instead and placed her in a pullout ESL class.

In first grade, María experienced a life-altering event: her father was deported while she hid in a closet with her brother and pregnant mother. Her caring first-grade teacher took extra care of María during this difficult time and made a lasting impact—an act of kindness that inspired and set María on the path to becoming an educator herself.



Fighting for Equity, Even as a Teen

In school, María noticed a lack of cultural representation in the curriculum. She didn't see a Latino character in a book until the 8th grade, when she read *Ramona*, and didn't see her first Latino teacher until high school.

This lack of representation, coupled with her prior undocumented status, made María attuned to civil rights early on. Despite strong grades in middle school, María was placed in the remedial track in high school, along with most of the other Latino students. With encouragement from her father's employer, she and her family challenged this placement, though her counselor was unsupportive. Undeterred, she took charge and, along with her peers and Latino High School teacher, Mr. Alfonso González founded Organización de Latino Americanos (OLA) as a sophomore in high school, a club that raised funds for college field trips and which still exists 30 years later!



A Teacher, a Mother, and a Community Leader

After being accepted to several universities during her senior year, she discovered she was pregnant and, as is culturally customary in these situations, married her first husband. She chose a local college so her parents could help with childcare. She later transferred to CSU Northridge. A couple of weeks before graduating with her Bachelor's degree, she was offered a teaching job in Lompoc with an emergency credential. Due to the passage of Prop 227, she was not able to apply her bilingual authorization to teach in a Bilingual Classroom, but she taught third grade for several years and built strong relationships with the Latino Community. As a result, she became godmother to several students during her tenure as a teacher. While teaching, and with a son and new baby girl in tow, María graduated with her master's degree in curriculum and instruction from Chapman University.

Administrator to Leader in Multilingual Education

After her divorce, with her children aged 11 and 3, she left the classroom to become her school district's first English Learner Teacher on Special Assignment (TOSA). During this time, María's former third-grade colleague introduced her to her son, Greg, and a beautiful relationship began. With the encouragement of her new partner, Greg, and several mentors, she pursued an administrative credential through the Santa Barbara County Education Office. At the end of the program, María was recruited as Director of EL Programs there where she created the county's first English Learner Network. While at SBCEO, she consulted for the Santa Maria Joint UHSD to restructure its EL program and was eventually hired full-time to create and lead a new division: the Multilingual and Migrant Education Programs Office. In that role, she launched the first translator/interpreter unit for Spanish, Mixteco, and English, created an a-g ELD pathway for newcomer students, and developed the district's first ethnic and gender studies program implementation plan, which later became a graduation requirement long prior to the state's Ethnic Studies graduation requirement.

After remarrying, María moved to Santa Barbara, where she joined Santa Barbara USD. There, she led Multilingual Programs, a state-recognized interpretation/translation Unit, Parent Partnership Programs, the launch of the district's first dual-language immersion (DLI) elementary and Junior High School, and collaborated on the state's first High School Career Technical Education (CTE) interpreter/translator pathway. While Director of English Learner and Parent Engagement Programs, she was honored with the [Latino Legacy Award](#) by Future Leaders of America.



Leading Through Crisis and Beyond

María served as a principal in Goleta during the COVID-19 pandemic—an especially challenging time in education. She then worked to revitalize a struggling DLI program in Solvang and built incredible relationships with the staff and teachers. After the passing of her close friend Dr. Ivannia Soto, María reconnected with colleagues from CABE (California Association for Bilingual Education) at the memorial, which sparked her transition to CABE.

Home at CABE: A Mission Renewed

Since joining CABE, María has supported initiatives for Asian and Indigenous languages and helped launch the first CABE Languages of Indigenous Peoples Institute (CALI) at CABE 2025—work that resonates deeply with her, as she grew up on Chumash territory and has strong community ties there. Her work reflects CABE's mission and values—building systems that honor, uplift, and reflect the full diversity and inclusion of underserved communities.

Mentor, Educator, Mother, Wife, Friend, and More

María continues to serve as supervisor and instructor in Santa Barbara County for aspiring school administrators, and in the past 10 years, has mentored over 20 administrator candidates, now leaders and administrators in education.

María resides in Solvang, CA, with her husband of 17 years, Greg Horton, Director of Business Operations for California at Cox Communications. They have two bilingual college graduate children: Martín (31), Program Operations



Specialist, South America for Direct Relief International, who is engaged to the beautiful Anelisse, and Isabel (24), Deputy Director of Digital Communications for the Office of California Governor Gavin Newsom. María also helps care for her wonderful father-in-law, Don, who resides in the home. Their family also includes a lively (crazy) dog, Mila, a border collie-pit bull mix.



Outside of work, María enjoys hosting dinner parties, spending time with her family and sisterhood of close friends, traveling - especially to Guadalajara to visit her family and share the city with friends and to Cambria, CA, where the Horton family owns an oceanside home. In June, she will begin a doctoral program in curriculum and instruction with a focus on dual language education—a full-circle moment that brings together her passion, experience, and vision for the future.



We are honored to celebrate María's leadership, story, and spirit. Her journey is a reminder of why we do this work—and what's possible when we stand up for equity, language justice, and every student's right to belong.

What's happening in local chapters across the state....



Yolo/Woodland CABE Chapter #76, Region 1



CABE Yolo/Woodland Chapter 76 proudly participated in and served on the committee for Beamer Park Elementary School's Dual Immersion Program 40th Anniversary Celebration. This event allowed us to reflect on and express gratitude for the contributions of the past while looking forward to many more successful years for this program.





Congratulations to the CAFE Yolo/Woodland Chapter 76 2025 Aspiring Bilingual Scholarship recipients: Alan López and Andrea Ortega from Woodland High School, and Celeste García from Pioneer High School. Each recipient has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship to support their educational pursuits. A heartfelt thank you to our CAFE Chapter 76 members, special donors, and everyone who contributed to our fundraisers.



Other items of interest to the CAFE Community...



Lincoln Park Festival: A Celebration of Women in Theatre

Experience an unforgettable cultural event at the Lincoln Park Festival, where the power of storytelling takes center stage. This dynamic festival brings together major performances, stage readings, and micro theatre—all crafted by talented playwrights who are shaping the future of theatre.

Audiences will enjoy a diverse lineup of compelling works, from full-scale productions to intimate staged readings and experimental micro theatre performances. Each piece explores unique perspectives, amplifying the voices of women in the arts and offering fresh, thought-provoking narratives.

Join us for a festival filled with inspiration, creativity, and groundbreaking performances—all set in the heart of Lincoln Park. Whether you're a theater enthusiast, an artist, or a supporter of inspirational storytelling, this event promises to be a celebration of talent, diversity, and innovation.

Website: www.bfatheatre.org
Instagram: @bfa_theatre
Facebook: BFA Theatre
TikTok: @bfa.theatre



Read Conmigo Educator Grants

Advancing Dual-Language Education for Bilingual Students

The Kemper Foundation's Read Conmigo Educator Grant application period is now open!

These \$3,000 grants support classroom resources and/or professional development that advance dual-language (Spanish-English) education for bilingual students.



Program Details:

- Eligible educators in dual-language programs (Spanish-English) at public and charter elementary schools in the following locations can apply:
 - **California:** Los Angeles, Orange, Riverside, San Bernardino, or Ventura counties
 - **Florida:** Broward or Miami-Dade counties
 - **Texas:** Dallas County
- The Kemper Foundation awards up to 100 grants per year, with applications accepted in the spring and the fall.
- Grant applications are due by **June 16, 2025 at 11:59 p.m. local time.**

Learn More

For more information, including eligibility requirements, FAQs, and how to apply, please visit [The Kemper Foundation website.](https://www.kemperfoundation.org/read-conmigo)

Comic Corner...



Contact the editor: Laurie Miles, Communications Manager, laurie@gocabe.org



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