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Estimada Colega:

It is impossible to imagine a half century has passed since the inception of the CAFE organization. Thank goodness for all the CAFE staff, volunteers, and members who persevered over the years in their support of language and cultural rights for language minority students. As a representative of the OBBE/CDE for thirty years, CAFE was, without a doubt, our most effective and dependable non-governmental partner.

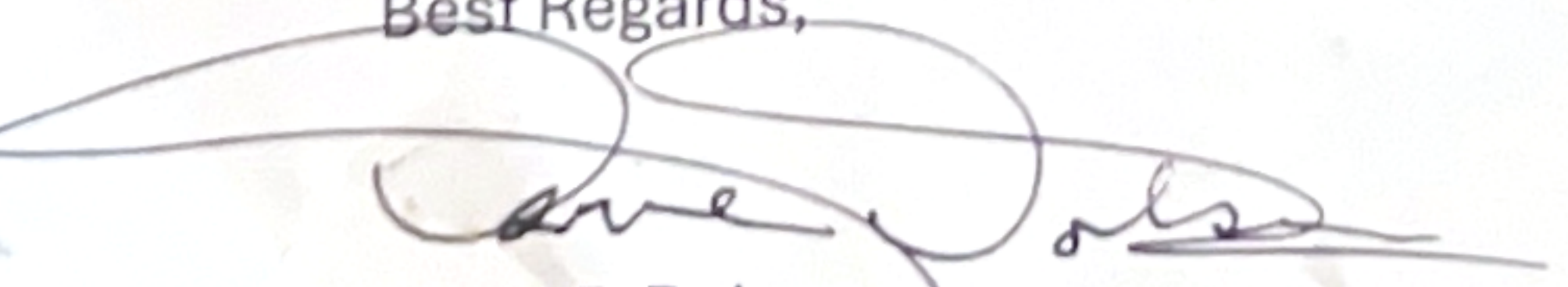
As Looking Back Celebrating CAFE's 50th Anniversary illustrates, beginning in the late 1960s and continuing to recent times, there was a tremendous amount of pro-social activity directed toward equal educational opportunities for language learners and OBBE and several partner offices at CDE responded as best as realities would allow. Often our efforts were hindered by fierce political opposition and lack of funding. As far as personal highlights, I share several events in this history that were of particular importance to me as contributions to the effort:

1. Co-writing with Dr. Fred Dobb the regulations for the Chacon-Moscone Bilingual Education Act in 1977 as well as the memorandum to the field associated with the requirements of the program. This included language census procedures including the Home Language Survey and the English proficiency exam process for identification of protected students.
2. Serving as team leader for publications such as *The Theoretical Framework and Studies in Immersion Education*. Collaborating with researchers such as Lambert, Cummings, Swain, Fishman, Genesee, Skutnabb-Kangas, Ramirez and others was an experience of a lifetime. The goal was to bridge the gap between available research and practices in the field. Staff literally conducted hundreds of follow up technical assistance workshops and presentations related to these and other OBBE technical assistance publications.
3. The conference Chair of the Two-Way Bilingual Education Symposium held at the University of California-Santa Barbara in the summer of 1986, bringing together program advocates and practitioners from around the world.

4. Participating in the effort to forestall Sunset by teaming up with Benjamin Lopez, CRLA under the sponsorship of Senator Henry Mello, to author a bill to reauthorize the Bilingual Act.
5. Post Sunset, writing the regulations under the guidance of CDE's Legal Office (Allan Keown, Lead Council) to continue requirements for ELD and access to the core curriculum through specialized instruction such as primary language and sheltered English (first time this concept was codified in regulation to my knowledge).
6. Programmatically operationalizing for the first time funding for the Title VII, Dual Language option for bilingual immersion programs in California and assigning Judy Lambert to represent OBBE in the effort. Working with Tove Skutnabb-Kangas and Katheryn Lindholm to develop guidelines for bilingual immersion models and to collect research evidence of effectiveness. As example: World class education for children in California: a comparison of the Two-way Bilingual Immersion and European Schools Model, a paper presented at the Tenth World Congress of Applied Linguistics in Amsterdam, 1993 and later published in Tove Skutnabb-Kangas, ***Multilingualism for All***, 1995. OBBE also sponsored a Title VII coop of bilingual immersion programs (with Santa Monica, San Diego, Los Angeles, San Jose, and Windsor School Districts).
7. Finally, a personally-rewarding effort was working with the Luso-American Education Foundation in establishing in 1977 the first annual state conference on Portuguese (Bilingual) Education in San Diego—an event that continues to the present. Our Portuguese group is negligible compared to many others but we were able to make contributions to California in many ways through efforts of John Vasconcellos and Henry Mello, bilingual immersion programs in Artesia and San Jose, and political support from the Luso-American Education Foundation for the struggles associated with legislation and propositions.

I want to congratulate you and your associates on the publication of Celebrating CABA'S 50th Anniversary. It is an excellent and fitting remembrance of fifty years of safeguarding the wellbeing of California's language minority communities. *Como dicen en Espanol, felicidades y em portugues, parabens!* Clearly, the pioneers of this effort in California shed a lot of blood, sweat, and tears to achieve the many successes enumerated in the publication. Without a doubt, similar work must continue presently and into the future to assure that progress continues.

Best Regards,



David P. Dolson