



## Wisconsin Association for Bilingual Education

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### **President**

Dr. Juan Báez

### **Past President**

Ivelis Perez

### **Corresponding Secretary**

Mildred Olson

### **Recording Secretary**

Ana Baez

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### **Life Time Members:**

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Jesús Santos

Ezequiel Vargas

Dear WIABE Members and Fellow Educators:

It is a special honor and privilege to begin my term as president of the Wisconsin Association for Bilingual Education. Our outgoing president, Ivelis Perez, deserves an enormous thank you from all of us for guiding our organization so ably and for making us feel that we really are part of a movement to promote equal and equitable educational opportunities for all language minority students while maintaining the students' sense of pride in their culture. She has been a terrific role model and leaves some tough shoes to fill. I am grateful that I will be able to reach out and rely on her counsel during my term.

I hold a special place for WIABE and the trail that has been blazed by previous board members. For thirty-eight years, WIABE has been an advocate for language minority students across the state. Being elected president is thus a special honor for me, and I will do my best to serve you, our members, during my term.

In preparation for my presidency, I have served as a bilingual classroom teacher, an Assistant Principal, a school principal and now as a Manager for Educator Effectiveness. I have also served as a WIABE Board Member for the last two years, which provided me with a chance to learn first-hand about many of the important activities in which WIABE is involved. Thanks to this work from our previous board members, WIABE is in very good shape and primed to evolve.

As we move forward, we hope to gain your commitment to shape the work of our organization. We hope to empower you by cultivating leadership opportunities in collaboration with the Board. We need to start thinking collaboratively about identifying a set of strategic actions to enlarge our footprint across the state and that are aligned to our mission and vision. WIABE will facilitate these discussion soon and aim to address them in the months to come.

So why should you be a WIABE member and support this work? WIABE is devoted to supporting and encouraging the implementation of educational policies and effective bilingual-bicultural programs that promote equal and equitable educational opportunities and academic excellence for all language minority students. This means using all of our resources and engaging all stakeholders, to expand and improve opportunities for students at all levels, to provide venues for our members to share their expertise -whether in person, print or online- and to establish important contacts to facilitate exchange and collaboration. So, thank you for your continued support, and please don't hesitate to let me know what you think would make us even better.

Sincerely,

Dr. Juan A. Báez

President, WIABE

Wisconsin Association for Bilingual Education

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