

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **DLeNM Awarded National Professional Development Grant to Support Multilingualism**

**[Albuquerque, NM] — September 6, 2024** — Dual Language Education of New Mexico (DLeNM) is proud to announce that it has been selected as one of 13 recipients of a highly competitive grant from the U.S. Department of Education’s National Professional Development (NPD) program. This grant is part of the Biden-Harris Administration’s \$11 million initiative aimed at supporting the recruitment and retention of bilingual and multilingual educators and providing high-quality programming to Native students.

In partnership with New Mexico Highlands University (NMHU) and the Multistate Association for Bilingual Education, Northeast (MABE), DLeNM will use the NPD Grant to further its mission of developing, supporting, and advocating for high-quality dual language enriched education. The project will be instituting a Grow-Your-Own (GYO) model that aims to increase the number of certified bilingual teachers, creating new supportive pathways for both pre- and in-service educators. Anchored in the National Dual Language Education Teacher Preparation “EMMA” Standards (Guerrero & Lachance, 2018), the project will employ mentorship and professional development as key levers of change to recruit, support, and retain bilingual teachers.

“We are honored that the U.S. Department of Education has recognized and entrusted us with this responsibility,” said Michael Rodríguez, Executive Director of DLeNM. “This grant will help us strengthen efforts to effectively recruit and retain bilingual educators, ensuring that all students have access to the high-quality dual language bilingual education programs they deserve.”

MABE’s Executive Director, Phyllis Hardy added “MABE is *energized and inspired* by the opportunity to collaborate with DLeNM to support the multilingual teacher pipeline through this project. Our innovative mentorship model creates the conditions for bilingual teachers to be better supported and for experienced bilingual teachers to advance their professional development by becoming mentors. Importantly, the project not only addresses the bilingual teacher shortage but also launches the EMMA Standards, which propel our field forward by outlining and defining the competencies that make a quality bilingual teacher”.

“We are grateful for this opportunity to expand the inclusion of dual language education-centered standards into teacher training. These efforts will make a significant difference in the education of students throughout New Mexico. NMHU is uniquely positioned to provide this training in collaboration with DLeNM, which furthers our ability to impact the lives of many more teachers and students,” said President Neil Woolf of New Mexico Highlands University.

Inclusion in this prestigious cohort represents a significant milestone in an ongoing commitment to equitable educational practices. The grant award addresses a critical need to equitably serve New Mexico’s diverse educational landscape and the growing number of multilingual learners in dual language programs in the New England area.

For more information about DLeNM and its initiatives, please visit [www.DLeNM.org](http://www.DLeNM.org). Additional information about the National Dual Language Teacher Preparation “EMMA” Standards and DLeNM’s EMMA Consortium can be found at [www.emmastandards.org](http://www.emmastandards.org).