



# BESO TIP

## Highlights of BESO Institute

By Michelle Cavazos

During the 44<sup>th</sup> annual TABE Conference themed *¡Una Hora de Éxitos!*, we had a successful BESO pre-institute turnout with an attendance of 122 members. TABE 2015 teacher of the year, Ms. Hilda Náñez, commemorated the day with her keynote speech on teaching strategies and her childhood success story.

As well, we had speakers such as Ms. Viola Vela from UHCL, TABE lobbyist Jesse Romero, Dr. Roberta Leal from UHCL, and BESO UHCL president Jessica Arriaga. There were four district recruiters who advised our BESO audience about what their district has to offer. These districts were Spring ISD, New Caney ISD, Crowley ISD, and Duncanville ISD. Throughout the day we learned about bilingual education advocacy, school administration in the process of hiring new teachers, and how BESO organizations can make an impact in their college.

One of the BESO tips I would like to focus on and share with you all is the discussion in which BESO organizations participated on in regards to Jessica Arriaga's presentation. The topic of her presentation was on how BESO can help bilingual education pre-service teachers on how to prepare ourselves in order to become the teacher we want to be. Without professional development for ourselves, we won't be able to inspire our future students. In order to do this task,



below are some tips in which your BESO organization can help future teachers.

### 1. Develop a Mentoring Program

This mentoring program can serve members who are not in the education program, in this case college freshman and sophomore students, but want to build a career in bilingual education. BESO members who are in the education program can help guide these students by advising them about required courses, time management, and preparation for teacher certification exams. This mentoring program can help educate those students about what bilingual education is and what to do before entering the education program in their campus. There can be one BESO member assigned to a student who is interested in the bilingual education career path and have weekly meetings. During these one hour meetings they can discuss any issues, concerns, or questions. This is a great way to help create an environment where support is practiced, just like when a new teacher is ready to teach their first year.

### 2. Prepare Teacher Certification Exam Workshops

During the semester, BESO can arrange teacher certification exam workshops to help our pre service teachers get familiar with the PPR, Core-Subject exam, BTLPT, and Bilingual Supplement. These workshops can be conducted by professors who are able to dedicate some of their time during the day, evening, and/or weekend. Make sure to talk to the professor first and set a date ahead of time in order to reserve the space BESO would like to use. These workshops can count towards their resume.

### 3. Conduct Mock Interviews and Resume Building

Similar to exam workshops, BESO can have meetings where they have mock interviews with each other. Your BESO advisor can help facilitate this activity in which a series of most frequently asked questions in a school interview are asked. BESO members can



## BESO TIP Cont'

can have the advantage of practicing their oral skills in Spanish/English and learn about posture, what to say/what not to say, and how to go through a smooth interview process at the moment of hire. BESO can also talk with their members about how to build a great effective resume. With so many things that BESO and TABE offers, excellent advice on how to construct your resume would be helpful.

#### 4. Bring Guest Speakers

Another awesome idea would be to bring in guest speakers to one of these BESO meetings. It can be local administrators, professors, community leaders, or city commissioners to dedicate at least one hour of their time. They can share anything that ties into advocating bilingual education. BESO members will benefit so much to knowing how their community shares their thoughts on bilingual education.

#### 5. Encourage and Promote Leadership

To conclude this BESO tip, don't forget to always promote leadership with BESO members. Following these tips will help your organization expand and develop their bilingualism. There can also be workshops where the focus is on Spanish grammar and the use of Spanish academic language. Your BESO can host study sessions to collaborate with each other and work on homework. All these strategies are helpful to impact your BESO members into becoming ready to be great bilingual teachers. Leadership develops through great teamwork!



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