

Justification Toolkit

Making the case for support of travel, funding, and time off—especially in times of tight budgets and reduced staff—to attend any conference requires a solid understanding of the potential benefits of attending. Dual Language Education of New Mexico’s La Cosecha Conference is the largest dual language conference in the United States with participants and presenters representing multilingual learners in programs ranging from heritage language to one-way developmental to two-way dual language immersion. The opportunities to share, network, and learn from members of our dual language community is without parallel. Use this toolkit to help define and clearly communicate these benefits in order to make the case to attend.

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Why You Should Attend

DLeNM's La Cosecha Conference offers educators a great opportunity to expand both your local, national, even international networks, and can help you find the information you need to develop and maintain best instructional practices as well as effective ways to ensure sustainability and growth in the services provided to multilingual learners in your school or district.

Participants who attend La Cosecha:

- Improve their knowledge and skills with high-quality professional development sessions led by experts in the field as well as enthusiastic practitioners willing to share their challenges and successes.
- Gain insight into the future needs of our diverse school communities by participating in plenary, keynote, preconference, and breakout sessions where honest and motivating discussions take place.
- Have ample opportunities to participate in school visits that showcase dual language and heritage language programs, attend focused preconference institutes, peruse materials displayed by our many sponsors, and network with colleagues from across the country at lunch and at our Thursday-night dance.
- Enjoy New Mexico's unique cultural identity by attending our Friday-night social powwow and Peña Musical.

Expenses & Benefits

Beyond fulfilling your personal professional development goals, you can rightly claim that attending La Cosecha Conference will also enable you to bring expertise and knowledge back to your school or district. When you propose a conference for approval, be sure to focus on what you will specifically bring back to your school or district. You'll also want to connect your responsibilities, goals, and challenges to your conference experience. To help you make a strong case for attending, here are some goals common to our attendees and the ways in which La Cosecha Conference meets these goals.

Benefits Worksheet

Goal	How La Cosecha Conference Supports Your Goal
Gain insight into successful planning and implementation of instructional best practices that support academic achievement in two languages	Preconference institutes and breakout sessions feature experts, researchers, and practitioners who can help you plan and implement standards-based strategies and activities that will help your students access grade-appropriate content knowledge and skills. Special emphasis includes ways to provide students access and use of the language needed to successfully engage in classroom activities.
Learn how to plan and deliver instruction that develops students' bilingualism and biliteracy	Experts and practitioners share resources and strategies that develop both program languages whether for heritage, emerging bilingual, Indigenous, developmental, or students who have experienced language shift. You will gain important information regarding biliteracy development to share with administrators and colleagues.
Find ways to develop sociocultural awareness, an additive perspective, and an equity mindset that honors and values all students' experiences	Great instructional strategies will not have the expected positive outcomes if the classroom culture is not one in which students feel valued and accepted. Learn how to shift your perspective, and that of your colleagues, to an asset-based mindset in which students with diverse experiences, languages, and cultures feel validated and your instructional environment is culturally and linguistically responsive.
Learn and plan actions to sustain and grow your dual language program	Dual language programs require much thought and planning for a successful launch. Equally important are the actions taken to sustain and grow the program—when the student population changes, when parents and community members voice their concerns, when district policies impact the school ... Learn how to stay focused on the mission of your dual language program and take steps to ensure its success.
Stay on top of current and future trends in dual language education	Translanguaging! Biliteracy! Needed Research! The Effects of Colonization! Racism! Hijacked Boards of Ed! The Gentrification of Dual Language Programs! Indigenous Language Revitalization! These topics and more are presented, discussed, and debated at La Cosecha.
Share in discussions of relevant topics in the education of multilingual students	La Cosecha events will connect with you with colleagues at all stages of dual language program implementation, EL or EB instruction, Socio-

	emotional support for students, materials development and adoption, and instructional best practices. Come join the conversations!
Expand your professional network	At La Cosecha, you will connect with knowledgeable speakers and session leaders as well as experience exceptional peer-to-peer networking opportunities.
Gain fresh ideas, new perspectives, and get inspired	Get inspired by keynote and plenary speakers and leaders in the education of multilingual learners who will stimulate your passion to serve your dual language/heritage/Indigenous language/English learning/emerging bilingual community.

Conference Strands

All breakout, preconference institutes, keynote, and plenary sessions are submitted to unique strands developed by the Program Committee. See below for strand titles.

Academic Language Development	Effective Literacy: Biliteracy, Oracy, and Oral Language Development (including ELD)	Sociocultural Responsiveness, Social Justice, CRT, Educational Equity and Access
DLE Program Development and K-20 Implementation	Family/Community Partnerships	Indigenous Language Immersion and Dual Language Immersion Programs
Leadership: Research, Policy, and Advocacy	Early Childhood or Special Education	Integrating Technology and Online Instruction

Registration Type	Early	Regular	Late
FUENTE365 In-Person Rate	\$450	\$525	\$600
New/Renewing In-Person FUENTE365 Rate	\$525	\$600	\$675
Non FUENTE365 In-Person Rate	\$550	\$625	\$700
Special Registration Types			
Virtual Registration	NA	\$190	\$240
Lead Presenter	\$290	\$290	\$390
Parent/University Student/EA	\$290	\$290	\$390
In-Person Optional Events			
School Visits	\$95	\$95	CLOSED
Student Leadership Institute	\$75	\$75	\$75
Pre-Conference Inst.	\$215	\$215	\$215

Expenses Estimate

Conference expenses are affected by a number of factors. Use the following worksheet to help you develop a cost estimate for attending La Cosecha. Be prepared to compare the expenses against your benefits worksheet in order to make the case for attendance.

Expense	Guideline	Cost
Conference Registration		
Preconference Institute Registration	Optional fee, separate from conference registration	
School Visits	Optional fee, separate from conference registration. Visit schools with exemplary dual language programs in the community.	
Flights	Estimate using a travel service. The Albuquerque International Sunport is located just south of the city.	
Lodging	The La Cosecha Planning Committee has negotiated discount conference rates for hotel accommodations. Please see the Hotel Partners drop-down menu at lacosechaconference.org	
Transportation	Partner hotels are all within walking distance of the conference venue. Be sure to include transportation to and from the airport to the hotel. Some partner hotels have shuttle service. If driving, remember to include estimated parking costs and mileage reimbursement.	
Food Per Diem	La Cosecha Conference provides a daily breakfast buffet and networking luncheons on Thursday and Friday.	

Opportunities to Save

There are a number of ways you can save on your conference attendance. Here are some options to explore:

- If you register by the early-bird registration date, you can save \$175.
- If you register using the *Fuente365* in-person rate, you will also gain access to Dual Language Education of New Mexico's online professional development platform for a year, and receive your own copy of our quarterly newsletter, *Soleado, Promising Practices from the Field*.
- A *Virtual Registration* allows you online access to plenary sessions and a select number of concurrent sessions that will be live streamed on the conference platform and recorded for post-conference viewing (approximately 20% of the conference program). A limited number of sessions recorded the day they are presented will be posted the following day on the platform, and a limited number of recorded sessions will be available on-demand.

Testimonials

Here what past attendees have said about La Cosecha Conference:

- "My favorite thing about this year's La Cosecha was the consistent message of the multilingual lens (versus the monolingual lens). I also liked that the rhetoric was consistent in having an asset mindset, understanding that our students come with a rich language repertoire."
- *"¡Las presentaciones en diferentes idiomas y estrategias para implementar en el salón de clases – muy buenas!"*
- "Loved the variety of session selections tailored to the needs of all areas of dual language education."
- "The number of sessions to select was amazing, it was more than what I expected it to be. A wonderful experience that I recommend to all staff, not just educators of dual language. Anyone who serves students should attend!"

Justification Letter

Dear Educator,

We have prepared the following letter to assist you in garnering support from your principal or district leader to attend La Cosecha Conference 2023. Feel free to customize the document to help “make the case” for your attendance.

Dear <Colleague>,

At La Cosecha Conference 2024, educators serving multilingual learners from around the county will come together in Santa Fe, New Mexico for another unique opportunity to enhance their professional skills, knowledge, and careers. La Cosecha is the largest dual language conference in the country, bringing together educators, parents, researchers, and practitioners who support dual language, two-way immersion, one-way developmental bilingual, and one-way heritage language immersion programs from across the U.S. I would like to attend this event, which is scheduled for November 13-16, to learn from this amazing group of experts.

To meet my professional development goals, I am seeking approval for the registration fee, travel expenses to the conference, minimal food expenses during the conference, and <preconference institute or school visit>. The detailed cost breakdown is listed below. <insert your expense estimate numbers here>

Conference Registration _____
Preconference Institute and/or School Visit (if applicable) _____
Flight _____
Lodging _____
Transportation _____
Food Per Diem _____
Total estimated conference cost _____

By attending this conference, I will be able to select presentations (breakout sessions, keynote, plenary, and panel) from the following topic strands that will help inform my role in our school and share with my colleagues:

- Academic Language Development
- Effective Literacy: Biliteracy, Oracy, and Oral Language Development (including ELD)
- Sociocultural Responsiveness, Social Justice, CRT, Educational Equity and Access
- DLE Program Development and K-20 Implementation
- Family/Community Partnerships
- Indigenous Language Immersion and Dual Language Immersion Programs
- Leadership: Research, Policy and Advocacy
- Early Childhood or Special Education
- Integrating Technology and On-line instruction

My participation in this conference will complement our school’s objectives and will provide me with information and resources to share with my colleagues.

Thank you in advance for your consideration,

Sincerely,

<your full name>