

## Transcript Fireside Charla: Bilingualism **IN PROGRESS**

Jose Sabedra Jr.:

The things in your mind. You can expand your mind. You can open it. You can learn a lot of new cultures and traditions, to it.

President de la Torre:

And then you know, Im gonna, each of you are gonna introduce yourself. So if you could introduce yourself.

Edith Hernandez:

My name is Edith Hernandez and I'm Jose's mom.

President de la Torre:

And so Edith could you please give me a little bit about your own background and how the importance of biliteracy for you?

Edith Hernandez:

Well, I was born in Mexico City and I grew up in Los Angeles. But as a Latina, I think its very important to be able to speak both languages English and Spanish. Its been great for me because it has opened a lot of doors professionally. I used to work as a translator before. So as early when I was actually 20, so it opened a lot of doors for me professionally. I mean I love my culture, I love that, and I wanted to pass that on to my son.

President de la Torre:

Okay, that's good okay. So let's go to your husband. If you could introduce yourself.

Jose Sabedra Sr.:

Sure, my name is Jose Sabedra. The reason why I think biliteracy is very important its something that I struggled with as a youth when I first went to school. Spanish was my

first language. We were always separated from the other groups. And now that I see this push by not only our school district but also by universities such as SDSU I love it because of the fact that it just expands and it gives not only us as Latinos but also our entire country a window into our culture that is so rich.

President de la Torre:

Okay, thank you. And so Cris you know you have been really at the forefront of looking at biliteracy and dual language immersion. Why is it important to maintain biliteracy and what's the significance of dual immersion?

Dr. Cristina Alfaro:

You know I really appreciated hearing what you had to say. Because I had to

President de la Torre:

Pause. Pause. Pause. Pause. Yes. Pause. Keep talking, yes. You know what, speak closer. I think you should be close enough. Sit up and making sure.

(2:19- 2:45) Cut

Dr. Cristina Alfaro:

So one of the things that I think we really have on our side as far as bilinguals and advocates for bilingual education is that we now have a plethora of brain research that supports bilingualism and biliteracy development. Something that we didn't have before and we didn't have the support that we do now. So when we start talking about what does it mean to be bilingual what does it mean to be biliterate it's really important to clarify because the fact that you're bilingual doesn't mean you're biliterate. Bilingualism is that one is able to speak in two languages. But to be biliterate, like Jose in his dual-language program, is to be able to learn how to read, write, and speak in both languages equally.

President de la Torre:

Okay, so how does it sound? Are we okay? I'm just checking because we can't start without them telling us the mic check. Cristina's? She's talking.

(3:32 - 4:14) Cut

Dr. Cristina Alfaro:

Okay, so I was having a conversation with Jose a little bit earlier and talking about just how the fact that you are in a dual-language program. You have been able to develop this linguistic database where you can select whether you are going to speak English or Spanish or if you're going to trans language which is what some of the new researchers are talking to us about is that that you know how to read your audience and if you have an audience that is bilingual, then you are able to go from one language to the other and still keep the grammatical you know rules in place. So its what we call now a third space that is being discussed for bilingual and biliterate learners. I was having that conversation with Jose and he says "alright". So then we were looking at the fact that when we start looking at our students that are learning one two or three or more languages that we need to instead of looking at it from a deficit view which was what was done in the past is that we view our students

President de la Torre:

Alright, okay, yes. Okay, I'm gonna ask everyone to introduce themselves. And just introduce your name and who you are. So I'm gonna start. I'm Adela de la Torre and I am the president of San Diego State University.

Jose Sabedra Jr.:

My name is Jose Sabedra and I am a fourth grader student at Bostonia Language Academy.

Edith Hernandez:

My name is Edith Hernandez and I am Jose's mom.

Jose Sabedra Sr.:

I am Jose Sabedra and I am Jose's dad.

Dr. Cristina Alfaro:

I am Cristina Alfaro. I am the Interim Associate Vice President for Global Affairs.

President de la Torre:

Okay, are we ready to go? Okay.

President de la Torre:

Welcome to this episode of the Fireside Charla. Today, we are here to discuss the importance of bilingualism and biliteracy development, an area of teaching and research in which SDSU is a national leader. More specifically, we will explore why bilingualism and biliteracy offer today's students and graduates a competitive advantage given today's culturally and linguistically diverse global society. Also, we will learn what SDSU is doing to meet the high demand for bilingual teachers. Joining me today, let me start again. Joining me today, oh boy let me try again. With me today is Dr. Cristina Alfaro, a leading expert in dual language education, Jose Sabedra, a promising young leader and the product of dual language education, Mrs. Judith Hernandez, Jose's mom, who has been a critical advocate to his bilingualism and success, and Jose Hernandez. Wait theres a typo here, I'm sorry. I gotta redo this sorry.

Jose Sabedra Sr:

It should be Jose Sabedra.

Edith Hernandez:

And it's Edith.

President de la Torre:

For some reason there is a. I have all these names wrong. I just was reading it.

Jose Sabedra Jr:

Okay. Let's try this again

President de la Torre:

That's what happens when you read.

President de la Torre:

Okay, I'll remind people too. I need to remind everyone to be as still as possible and not rustle any papers. So I don't know if any papers that you have are you flipping any papers? At this point were just gonna have to. It's Edith and Jose, right?

Edith Hernandez:

Edith.

President de la Torre:

And Jose.

Jose Sabedra Sr:

Sabedra

President de la Torre:

I'm gonna do this right now. Spell it correctly. I don't know why this is all wrong but it is for some reason. A young leader of dual immersion education and his parents.

Jose Sabedra Sr:

There you go.

Jose Sabedra Jr:

Good idea?

Edith Hernandez:

His parents, Edith and Jose.

President de la Torre:

Yeah Edith and Jose. I think Edith and Jose.

Jose Sabedra Sr:

That's fine yeah. Yeah

Jose Sabedra Jr:

Yeah either one. Either one is fine.

President de la Torre:

Alright let's try it again. Let's start right here. Let me get this over here too so I'm not ruffling, doing this here.

(6:00 - 8:38) Cut.

President de la Torre:

Welcome to the episode of the Fireside Charla. Today we are here to discuss the importance of bilingualism and biliteracy development, an area of teaching and research in which SDSU is a national leader. More specifically, we will explore why bilingualism and biliteracy offer today's students and graduates a competitive advantage, given today's culturally and linguistically diverse global society. Also, we will learn what SDSU is doing to meet the high demand for bilingual teachers. Joining me today is Dr. Cristina Alfaro, a leading expert in dual language education, Jose Sabedra, a promising young leader and a product of dual language education, and his parents, Edith and Jose, who have been critical advocates for bilingualism and success. Thank you for joining us today. Let's start by going around the table and sharing a little more about yourself and why you're excited about this topic. So Jose, let's start with you.

Jose Sabedra Jr:

Hi, my name is Jose Sabedra. I am a fourth-grader at Bostonia Language Academy and I am very excited to be here. Thank you for having me here, Dr. de la Torre.

Edith Hernandez:

Hi, Dr. de la Torre. My name is Edith and I am the proud mom of Jose.

Jose Sabedra Sr.:

And, my name is Jose Sabedra Sr. and I am the proud dad of Jose.

Dr. Cristina Alfaro:

Hi, my name is Cristina Alfaro and I am the Interim AVP Associate Vice President for Global Affairs and I am very happy to talk about this topic that is very important to me.

President de la Torre:

So I'm very excited to hear Jose's opinion, but I think the audience would like to know, first, what does it mean Cristina to be bilingual and biliterate?

Dr. Cristina Alfaro:

To be bilingual and biliterate. To be bilingual is for one that is able to speak in two languages. And biliterate is one that is not only able to speak in two languages but also to be able to read, write, and speak well in the two languages. One of the interesting thing about the development of bilingualism and biliteracy, is that we all come from different typologies and it's really important to note that because the research indicates that it's something that we need to look at. For example, many of us come from homes that are bilingual and it's more of a heritage bilingual. We have some students that are Native English speakers and learn how to speak another language as part of their education, and then we have students that are Native speakers of a language and then learn how to speak English. So the research now shows many many positive effects of having a dual language education. And today we have Jose with us to be able to share those benefits in the dual language program that he's participating in currently.

President de la Torre:

So Jose, when I was a little girl, my Abuelita taught me Spanish and that was my first language. So I think I would fit in that heritage speaker definition. But you have had a

very interesting journey into your bilingual educational experience. So I'd like you to provide us some background about your journey and what you think about that journey as you move forward today in your educational pathway.

Jose Sabedra Jr.:

So at first, I didn't know any Spanish. I never understood any of it. To be honest, I never understood any. But then I came to Bostonia Language Academy, a school of bilingualism and of Spanish and English. So, I didn't understand any, but as I moved up in grade, and as time passed, I became way better at speaking Spanish. My parents used to use Spanish as their code language so I wouldn't know what they were saying in the car. So, after I learned a lot of Spanish, I could understand them now and now they can't use their code language as Spanish.

President de la Torre:

So now I'm gonna turn to the parents, aha! So, Jose was saying you used it as a code language. So, Jose and Edith, what made you excited about putting Jose into this dual immersion program so that he could begin to understand your secret language?

Edith Hernandez:

Well for me, I'm a native Spanish speaker. And actually I learned English when I came to live in Los Angeles. So for me, it was very important for Jose to learn about our culture, our traditions, the language. And what it appealed for me was, it was just the school, the program was great and the way they taught the kids not only about culture and traditions, but about speaking and writing and reading the correct way. And I wanted my son to have that.

President de la Torre:

And Jose, what are your thoughts?

Jose Sabedra Sr.:

Um, I was, I felt it was very important because as a youth I struggled with English as well when I went into school. It was difficult. There weren't as many programs or even any bilingualism going on at all in the school districts which were here in San Diego. And so I just felt it was very important especially with the rich culture and heritage that

my family has on both sides since my dad is American but my mom is Mexican. I thought it was super important for my son to learn the language and to be able to read and write it which is what I do at work currently.

President de la Torre:

So the incredible opportunities I need to tell you Jose. My daughters were in one of the first dual immersion programs in Long Beach Unified School District. They had the same experience. They did not know a word. Or they knew a few words. I should say they didn't know a word.

Jose Sabedra Jr:

The only words I knew was "Yo quiero tacos de pescado."

President de la Torre:

Which is an important expression when you're hungry! So I think it's important to understand that oftentimes becoming bilingual and biliterate doesn't mean that you have to have fluency in either language. It's really having the type of environment where those types of skills can flourish. So I'm going to now turn to Cristina and say, now that we know we have this wonderful student here Jose who is able to develop this pathway for biliteracy and bilingualism, what are the things that we need to do in order to create this in San Diego county?

Dr. Cristina Alfaro:

Well, in San Diego county, we had been very fortunate because in 2016 November 2016, Proposition 58 was passed, which allowed school districts to have the option of offering dual language programs. So since that happened we went from having a handful of programs to now in San Diego county we have over 120 dual language programs. We are proud to say San Diego county has been a lead in the state of California in offering dual language programs. But now LA has become a competitor as far as you know dual language programs. But one of the one of the issues that we're looking at is just how do we continue to expand dual language programs, quality dual language programs. And that's one of the issues that we look at is that because now that the research is there and it's become a very popular program for all, not just for Latino families but we have programs right now here in San Diego county that are French and Mandarin and Spanish and growing, you know, we're looking at Arabic. So

San Diego State is the university that is really the lead in providing teachers for these dual language programs. So the future is looking very positive not only for San Diego but for California and the nation at large.

President de la Torre:

So Jose, I have a question for you. What about learning science in Spanish or math? Has there been any issues with that? Or have you been able to

Jose Sabedra Jr:

Yes. Yes there have been many issues with me learning Spanish math in Spanish. I remember my first test in math and Spanish. I didn't get a good score. So once I started studying more Spanish I got better and then I started getting better scores on my math. And when I learned science, I'm very interested in science so when I learned science I tried to do my best at it and you know and I love it.

President de la Torre:

So a lot of the times parents will be asked or will ask is how do they ensure that their students can excel in every area including areas like science and math. So what are the conversations you have with your fellow parents at the school where Jose is attending, Edith?

Edith Hernandez:

Well for me it was at the beginning it was kinda concerning because I didn't know if he was going to perhaps when I move him from school because he was after first grade I moved him into Bostonia Language Academy. So one of my concerns was for him to fall behind because he was doing so good at his first school that it was totally English. But when he moved to Bostonia with the help of the teachers and the staff actually was great I mean his principal was amazing at making sure that the kids were getting the same level of education and it was easy for them to grasp and understand. I remember when they had the State test and being the fact that they were learning everything in Spanish, their math coding, everything was in Spanish. My worry was for him to understand the test when they came along. And surprisingly he did amazing and the results were great. His results were above average actually. The teachers were like Mrs. Sabedra don't worry it's gonna work he's gonna be able to understand. Then I thought to myself you know what two plus two is four in every language. So I just did my

best to support him at home. And to other parents that had the same concern, I pretty much got together with them and I said you know what we will support our kids in whatever they don't understand we will translate it for them we will look it up for them so they won't feel like you know they by themselves on that.

President de la Torre:

So Jose, are the parents really engaged in the school's supporting the students?

Jose Sabedra Sr:

Absolutely. Go ahead.

Jose Sabedra Jr:

Yes they really are. They are very engaged on helping the students and helping everyone. And my mom was

President de la Torre:

Let's because that's gonna sound a little odd. So lets start that again and what I'll do is I'll turn it to Jose. Your dad. Cut 19:12 - 19:41

President de la Torre:

So Jose, how are the parents engaged to support the students so that they can do in every single discipline?

Jose Sabedra Sr:

I think the parents and I can speak to our school district were very heavily involved. I mean this is something that's I think important especially in our school district of El Cajon where it's a big Arabic and and Latino community. I think its very important that we all become involved in this but especially my concerns were the same as my wife's. I was very concerned with him only learning Spanish, learning math only in Spanish and that was very much my concern and I spoke about it at the thing. But amazingly, as my wife has pointed out their score actually went up, that's what great about this, the biliteracy and the bilingualism is that not only does it does it improve them just in in Spanish as well but I mean in all subjects and in all areas.

President de la Torre:

So Jose, did you get a lot of confidence after taking the test about the impact of the Spanish on your skill sets in math and science?

Jose Sabedra Jr:

Yes I got very confidence, but I didn't wanna get my hopes too high because you know every time you go up, you could still fall down. So I didn't wanna get my hopes too high, but I was very confident after I did the State test and my scores went really up.

President de la Torre:

Well that's wonderful. So Cristina maybe you can put some perspective into this. Why is it that the biliteracy really helps in terms of the cognitive ability of students to do well in all areas of science and math, reading, which is so important for many many parents because they do want their their children to be successful in school.

Dr. Cristina Alfaro:

Mhm. In teacher preparation when we prepare bilingual teachers, we always say you only learn to read once you learn to read you learn to do math. And then if you learn it well you're able to transfer it to your other and so I think the example that you just gave is that he already knew it well in English you know math, and so or Spanish, so he was able to transfer it to the English exam. So so its its this database that our students you know because they are using all of the dendrites from the you know the right side and left side and they're able to really tap into that database and be able to do well on tests. One of the important things to know also and I think this is also what a lot administrators explain to parents is that there are three pillars in dual language education. The first pillar is academic excellence, the second is bilingualism and biliteracy, and then social cultural competence. So you know effective dual language programs do that and I know at Bostonia, you know and I was very instrumental in helping your principal when they were opening up that school that has flourished, and its a wonderful school. You're an excellent example of that. We we see that we see that in action where where you're able to tap into more of a linguistic and academic database to be able to do well in school and this is proven by the research.

President de la Torre:

So what's really exciting about this is that I think there is increasing demand. In fact one of the things that I've noticed is even my own grandson who is four and a half will be looking at a dual immersion program and the demand for these programs, he lives in Pasadena, is increasing. In fact, I would say there are not enough dual immersion programs and their waitlist to get into these programs as well as lotteries. So Cristina, what are we doing here at San Diego State to address this real demand for talented dual immersion teachers so that we can have these wonderful outcomes that Jose is experiencing in his school?

Cristina Alfaro:

Mmhm. Yes and Jose, Bostonia has many graduates from San Diego State University from the bilingual program. At San Diego State, there was a time that our program was very small because bilingual education was not as popular. Now especially after the passage of Proposition 58, it's become very popular. So what we've had to do is really look at different ways of preparing more bilingual teachers. We have a program that's you know growing your own program, we have an online program, we have our face to face program. And most importantly, we are also providing a lot of professional development for teachers because for even even in schools where we had bilingual teachers but they were teaching an English only programs. We had to go back and offer some continual professional development for these teachers so that when they are teaching the content areas like math and science that the academic Spanish or the academic Mandarin or French is going to be there because that is what we have to expose our students to. So we have been able to really increase the quantity of teachers. As a matter of fact, we have always been the largest bilingual teacher preparation program in the state and the nation now because the program has increased. So, but one of the things that we never pull back on is the quality of the preparation of our teachers because we feel that dual language programs have a have a greater demand than being in a monolingual program. So teachers are learning how to teach in two languages, in all the content areas for primary teachers, and then of course for single subject teachers it would be like whatever their subject is. But the demand is not so much just the content but its the content and the languages.

President de la Torre:

So Jose, what has been the most important experience you've had in your classroom in terms of making you sensitive not only to the language but also to the culture?

Jose Sabedra Jr:

It has made me more sensitive to the culture because you know I've learned about all these other things you know about the wars and and you know anything about the Spanish culture I've learned and now that I know about it I I've seen I've just seen so much. I've seen so much about the Spanish culture and now I want to learn more and more and more.

President de la Torre:

Well Jose I was certainly inspired when you did a presentation here at San Diego State, a bilingual one about the environment. What really motivated you in the context of developing your speech and what what tools did you really use to embrace both Spanish and English in your speech?

Jose Sabedra Jr:

Well, I got very inspired to do it because you know San Diego and Tijuana you know, they're very close together so. And if the water is dirty, its affecting both its affecting both parts of the state and countries, so we should do something about it. We could clean the water, get rid of the trash. You know, stop it. We should stop it and to do it in Spanish and English its a great way because a lot of people are bilingual and a lot of people from Tijuana could be coming there. So you know, do it in Spanish and English because you know it'll help. It'll help a lot.

President de la Torre:

So I think that there is an important message here for all of us to take home and that is there are tremendous benefits and opportunities with our dual immersion experiences and certainly San Diego State is at the cutting edge. So Cristina I'd like you to end with focusing on the future. Where do you see dual immersion programs in the future for education in terms of dual immersion for the state and for the country?

Dr. Cristina Alfaro:

So currently we have what we call the biliteracy seal. So Jose is on his way to obtaining that. The biliteracy seal is a seal that is given to students that graduate with evidence of knowledge of reading writing and speaking in two languages. So that biliteracy seal California again was the lead in providing this, but now we have 38 states and the

District of Columbia that have adopted this. So it is something that I think in this global economy is critical for all students to be able to have dual language programs and have that opportunity. And as Dr. President de la Torre said there is a real limit you know. My daughter just had a baby 3 months old and I told her get on the list. You have to get on the list because its so popular. One of the things that you mentioned Tijuana Jose and we also were instrumental in helping to open the first dual language program in Tecate you know which is real close to Tijuana. Because we have a lot of we look at the socio political situation of students that are floating back and forth on the border and they are bilingual and we need to continue to develop their bilingualism. So, bilingualism is, especially being here on the border is something that is supercritical and that we must continue to develop and to really value. Here at San Diego State you know being that were a Hispanic serving institution, not only do we have Spanish speakers, but we have students that are here from all over the world that study here and there are many many different languages. So San Diego State continues to look for ways and opportunities to make sure we value not only value the culture of the students that come to our university but also the linguistic capital that they bring to the university. We are right now in the beginning stages of in Global Affairs of talking about offering a what we are calling the global biliteracy seal for many of these students that study abroad in different countries and learn another language and to be able to and President de la Torre I wanna talk to you about this is what if we can look at the possibility of having graduates from San Diego State University also graduate with the global biliteracy seal to honor their language, the culture and the knowledge that they gain here? So, so many possibilities, a lot of initiatives to come, but again, its a its a very promising future for students that are in dual language programs.

President de la Torre:

So this is an exciting time for dual immersion and biliteracy and I'm so happy to have you all here today. Many opportunities for San Diego State, but many opportunities for parents to recognize that their dual immersion programs across the state with excellent teachers and also with incredible stories for their children in the future. So I want to thank you today and also say mil gracias and we look forward to having you again in the near future. **You can say thank you. Cut 30:37 - 30:44**

Dr. Cristina Alfaro:

Thank you so much for having us. Gracias.

Jose Sabedra Jr:

Thank you. Gracias.  
Jose Sabedra Sr:

Thank you. Gracias.

Edith Hernandez:

Gracias.

President de la Torre:

Do we wanna repeat any sections? Is there anything that needs to be redone?

Dr. Cristina Alfaro:

I just wanna ask you is it okay that I said what I said about you know an initiative to do that?

President de la Torre:

That's okay. I mean its supposed to be a natural conversation.

Dr. Cristina Alfaro:

Because I didn't talk to you about it before.

Edith Hernandez:

No I think that's amazing because I mean being a multicultural country. I mean its amazing its just great to have something like that because it allows people to understand other people and open their minds to their cultures, and their languages, and their traditions. So instead of people sometimes people are just too ignorant about other people's cultures and languages. So having something like that is amazing.

Jose Sabedra Sr:

Yes.

Jose Sabedra Jr:

Likewise.

President de la Torre:

So the producer has a suggestion. Yes.

Producer:

I thought there were two back to back questions for Jose Jr. that I'd love to hear him take another crack at.

President de la Torre:

Okay let's do that. Which question is it? What does it mean to be a bilingual biliterate?

Producer:

It was the first one was about. It was how bilingual education and learn more about and connect with the Spanish culture?

Edith Hernandez:

The traditions you've learned? El Dia de los Muertos? Cinco de Mayo?

Dr. Cristina Alfaro:

So you wanted him to repeat that?

Jose Sabedra Jr:

Los Tres Reyes Magos?

President de la Torre:

Yeah I don't have that question that's the problem.

Producer:

And then the other one was about the TEDX talk.

President de la Torre:

Okay, I did see that. Okay. What did you learn from the importance? Okay. Let me ask you two questions Jose. We'll do that. Are we running still? Okay.

Cut 31:38 - 32:33

President de la Torre:

Well Jose, what did you learn about the importance of bilingualism while preparing for your presentation? Well that doesn't make sense.

Dr. Cristina Alfaro:

How did he use?

President de la Torre:

Yeah, that doesn't make sense. Is it how did you use bilingualism. They won't know what the presentation is.

Producer:

It's not my question. So I say you go with whatever interpretation of that

President de la Torre:

The only thing is that. How about the TEDX talk on bilingualism. So you did do a TEDX talk on bilingualism?

Edith Hernandez:

Yes.

Jose Sabedra Jr:

Yes, on the benefits of being bilingual, yes.

President de la Torre:

Let's use that one. So Jose I've heard you did a TEDX talk on bilingualism? Okay, sorry.  
Cut 32:34 - 33:08

President de la Torre:

So Jose, I heard you did a TEDX talk on bilingualism. Can you tell us a little bit about that talk, and what you told the audience?

Jose Sabedra Jr:

So the benefits of being bilingual, they can expand your mind. And basically your mind is like a parachute. And when you learn more and more it starts to open. So what you gotta do is you gotta expand your mind, learn more languages, being bilingual. Not just being bilingual but learn even more than that. Go wild just expand it. Then you can open that parachute which is your mind and it'll open and you will learn a lot more than you had before.

President de la Torre:

And as a mother of this wonderful child who is expanding the world through language, what do you think is the importance of this bilingualism of Jose's?

Edith Hernandez:

Well it is very important, not only on Jose but in other kids. I've seen it flourish all the students in our school. And I think its very important especially nowadays. The United States is such a multicultural country that we need to be aware in experience. We need to be proactive in teaching our kids about other languages and cultures so they can be more sensitive to their surroundings too.

President de la Torre:

So Jose, what have you learned from your child who is bilingual and advocate for bilingualism?

Jose Sabedra Sr:

I've learned that its very important to understand that learning a language learning a different language I should say is very important to the growth of your mind. I mean a lot of things that he talked about in that speech, I honestly. There were things that we were told as a child was that we shouldn't learn another language because it would be a deficit rather than something that you should treasure. So I believe that's what was very important to me.

President de la Torre:

Jose again, we want to thank you for being here today. But also we'd like to know how you feel about bilingualism and biculturalism and why its important to message to the students the importance of these skills.

Jose Sabedra Jr:

Well you can learn a lot of things because you can communicate with your ancestors and you can communicate with your, for example, my great grandma, rest in peace, I would talk to her but she only knew Spanish so I wouldn't be able to understand her as much.

President de la Torre:

You know Jose I'm gonna stop because you were kinda going back and forth. So let me just ask you that maybe you should start with your grandmother and then you know that story okay?

Cut 35:12 - 35:56

President de la Torre:

So Jose, tell me why is it important to be bilingual and bicultural?

Jose Sabedra Jr:

Well my grandma, rest in peace, she only knew Spanish because she lived in Mexico. So I could barely understand her. I couldn't talk with her as much. But then I entered Bostonia Language Academy, then I started to learn more and more and more. And then I could talk with her a lot more than I could before.

President de la Torre:

And that really helped you in terms of communicating to your relatives in Mexico. But did it also help you with communicating to the broader community?

Jose Sabedra Jr:

Yes, it helped me so much. It helped me and I've learned so many traditions and cultures. For example, Dia de los Muertos, Cinco de Mayo, y Los Tres Reyes Magos are some of the traditions and cultures that I've learned from speaking Spanish.

President de la Torre:

That's wonderful. Well thank you Jose.

Producer:

That's good. Do you want to run through the intros once more now that we're all comfortable on the mic?

President de la Torre:

Yeah, we can do that.

Jose Sabedra Jr:

That would be a good idea.

Dr. Cristina Alfaro:

Adela, I have a. Can I talk?

President de la Torre:

Yeah.

Dr. Cristina Alfaro:

I have a question. I'm wondering if you know just to leave people with something that they can look up you know because on the website there are the guiding principles of dual language education where any educators or parents that would want to uh you know learn a little further. I don't know if that's something.

President de la Torre:

Yeah that's a good idea. So why don't I ask you Cristina.

Cut 36:57 - 37:26

President de la Torre:

So Cristina, could you share with the audience how they can look up more information about dual immersion programs and opportunities for pursuing credentials in dual immersion?

Dr. Cristina Alfaro:

Yes absolutely. In the Center for Applied Linguistics has a wonderful website that includes the guiding principles for dual language education. These are the guiding principles that all parents that are interested in having their children participating in a dual language program should be aware of because these are the principles that school districts and teachers use to inform their curriculum and to inform the way they deliver instruction for dual language programs. These guiding principles also include the three pillars that I spoke about earlier. So I would recommend that anyone that's interested in learning a little bit more about what dual language education is look up these guiding principles for dual language for the Center of Applied Linguistics. Okay.

President de la Torre:

So Cristina, I want to shorten that because you kinda were going ums and uhs a lot. So let me just reask that question to you.

Cut 37.26 - 38:35

President de la Torre:

So, Cristina could you provide the audience with the website or link so that they can identify how they can get information on dual immersion programs at SDSU?

Dr. Cristina Alfaro:

Absolutely. The Center for Applied Linguistics offers a website that includes the guiding principles for dual language education. This is a. I didn't again, I'm sorry.

President de la Torre:

No that's okay. I mean I think what happened was that you were going back and forth and repeating yourself. Just try to make it a shorter answer. So let me start again.

So Cristina could you provide. Let me start again. So Cristina, could you please provide some information to our audience about how they can access. Now I'm doing it too.

Dr. Cristina Alfaro:

It's catching on.

President de la Torre:

So Cristina, could you please provide. Okay. So please no laughter and we just have to get through this question.

Cut 38:36 - 39:33

President de la Torre:

So Cristina, could you provide our audience with a website or portal to get information about the dual immersion programs here at SDSU?

Dr. Cristina Alfaro:

Yes. If you go to the Center for Applied Linguistics, which includes a website that has the guiding principles for dual language education, these guiding principles inform school districts, and principles, and teachers, and parents of the necessary components for an effective dual language program.

President de la Torre:

Thank you so much.

So we're gonna go around one more time and so. So I'm just gonna have people introduce themselves. We don't have to go through the welcome part, do we?

Cut 40:06 - 40:16

Please introduce yourself Jose.

Jose Sabedra Jr:

My name is Jose Sabedra. I am a nine year old and a fourth grader at Bostonia Language Academy.

Edith Hernandez:

My name is Edith Hernandez and I'm the mom of Jose.

Jose Sabedra Sr:

My name is Jose Sabedra and I am the dad of Jose.

Dr. Cristina Alfaro:

I'm Cristina Alfaro. I am the Interim Associate Vice President for Global Affairs and a bilingual teacher educator.

President de la Torre:

That's it. Okay, thank you. We should do a picture then. That's it. What they'll do is they'll cut and

Cut 43:40 - 40:49

