



Correspondiente de la Real Academia Española

## **THE TRIUMPH OF DIVERSITY: MEXICAN EDUCATOR REBECCA BLUM MARTÍNEZ AWARDED THE ANDERSON IMBERT PRIZE BY THE NORTH AMERICAN ACADEMY OF THE SPANISH LANGUAGE**

**For immediate publication**

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**NEW YORK** (April 23, 2024). On Spanish Language Day, the North American Academy of the Spanish Language (ANLE) proudly announces the recipient of the 2024 edition of the Enrique Anderson Imbert Prize: Mexican-born professor Rebecca Blum Martínez. This annual award honors the professional life trajectory of those whose endeavors have significantly contributed to the understanding and dissemination of Hispanic language, literature and cultures in the United States.

Nuria Morgado, director of ANLE, remarked, “The unanimous decision of the jury to award Rebecca Blum Martínez reflected her multifaceted career, which has garnered recognition both nationally and internationally in bilingualism, multilingualism studies and education. Morgado further emphasized, “No less relevant within her educational itinerary are her many years as a bilingual education teacher, and the performance of very diverse academic functions aimed at the conservation and revitalization of different languages within the United States, especially Spanish and some indigenous languages.”

Expressing her gratitude, Blum Martínez stated, “Having been recognized by such a distinguished organization as the ANLE is a great honor. I receive this award with humility and deep gratitude, not only for considering the work of this modest pedagogue, but also because it contemplates the work of thousands of bilingual teachers who every day advocate and persevere to maintain the linguistic and cultural legacies of their students, recognizing their abilities and opening new worlds to them, even when they have to face the challenges of prejudice and indifference that we experience in the United States as well as other parts of the world.”

“My fortune was to be born into a family of teachers: my parents, my aunts and my cousins, and with their support I was able to maintain my language, Spanish, even when we moved far from my homeland,” added the professor from Guadalajara, Jalisco. “The experience of recovering the language was a watershed for me, helping me to understand closely what it feels like to lose a language. This experience has driven me to dedicate myself to bilingual education, to the teaching and maintenance not only of Spanish but also of other languages, because the mother tongue is an endearing part of identity and of a healthy and stable identity.”

Reflecting on the significance of mother tongue preservation, Blum Martínez emphasized, “the mother tongue carries a whole history of shared experiences, worldview, values, and it forms the bedrock of our identity. When we don't know who we are, when our identities are ignored or attacked, it is difficult to appreciate other worlds. If our desire is a peaceful, stable and fair future, we must invest in the potential of our young people by supporting them in research and maintaining their roots. This way they will be able to value new horizons and will be able to participate and contribute positively to their future.”

The ANLE jury members included Ambassador Harry Belevan McBride, Raquel Chang-Rodríguez, María Rosario Quintana, Violeta Rojo, Rosa Tezanos-Pinto, Graciela Tomassini and José Vargas-Vila, members of the Association of Academies of the Spanish Language (ASALE). In their resolution they expressed their recognition to Rebecca Blum Martínez “for her valuable and significant contributions to the development of bilingual education, multiculturalism in school settings, the design of programs, studies and practices, as well as the training of teachers fully prepared to implement those programs in the United States. Their multiple experiences in double immersion programs with students with diverse cultural roots – refugees, immigrants, native American – and different degrees of competence in their mother tongue or tradition – especially, but not exclusively, Spanish – have resulted in an important body of research and publications in influential American and foreign publishing media, as well as a long and fruitful teaching career, characterized by a profound respect for the students’ diverse cultural backgrounds, linguistic competences and worldviews.”

The present edition marks the twelfth presentation of the ANLE Enrique Anderson Imbert Award. Previous recipients include prominent scholars and educators such as Elías Rivers and Saúl Sosnowski (2012-13), Nicolás Kanellos (2014), Manuel Durán Gili (2015), Raquel Chang Rodríguez and David T. Gies (2016), Matías Montes Huidobro (2017), Enrique Pupo -Walker and Rolena Adorno (2018), Enrique Lamadrid (2019), Roberto González Echevarría (2020), Alicia Borinsky and Carmen Silva-Corvalán (2021), Giannina Braschi (2022) and Anne J. Cruz and Miguel Ángel Zapata (2023).



Rebecca Blum Martínez