



# UAB School of Education School Partner Baldwin County Board of Education



## *Baldwin County's UAB Alumni in Action*

In 2001, there were approximately 100 English learners (ELs) enrolled in the district. There were 2 ESL teachers who traveled throughout the district to provide services one day each week. Some ESL aides were employed on a contractual basis to assist as needed. No classroom teachers had received training in working with ELs.



Today, our ELs in Baldwin County speak 27 different languages, but the primary language spoken (95%) is Spanish. Our immigrant students primarily come from Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, and Brazil.

Our ESL program looks very different today than it did in 2001! We now have over 1,500 active ELs and hundreds of monitored students in our district. Our ELs are enrolled in 39 schools. We now have 26 full-time ESL Resource Teachers, 4 bilingual ESL Instructional Aides, 2 ESL Home-School Liaisons, and 1 district Spanish Translator.

Our dream of having an ESL Newcomer Center for our high school students was realized 10 years ago. Now we have approximately 70 EL high school students who attend the Center daily for English acquisition classes as well as for core classes in math, English, and history.

Tery Medina has worked in our district each year since 2007 to provide professional development for classroom teachers and other school employees.



In 2002-05, Baldwin County partnered with UAB on the New Teachers for New Students (NTNS) grant. Besides excellent coursework in the ESL master's program, UAB has been with us to answer questions and provide support throughout this adventure and up until today, even at a distance of 250 miles. From meeting Tery Medina to learning about newcomer centers, the foundation we received in the ESL master's at UAB was the impetus that allowed us to create an ESL program of which we are proud!

**Thanks, UAB!**



Dr. Kathy Nichol at [knichol@bcbe.org](mailto:knichol@bcbe.org).

Currently 16 educators in Baldwin County's ESL Program are alumni of UAB's ESL teacher education program: the ESL Supervisor Kathy Nichol and 15 ESL Resource Teachers—Amy Stutts, Jo Ann Lawhorn, Missy Dorgan, Tiffany Durant, Stephanie Montiel, Stephanie Sannes, Debbie Frey, Alissa Murphy, Pat Armour, Linda Harris, Melanie Barton, Elena Smith, Jessica Partin, Tamara Chamberlain, and Lauren Woodson. Three ESL alumni have retired from our program: Shay Stewart, Carmen Potts, and Sondra Gentry.