

## **From the President of Asocopi**

**Claudia María Uribe Hoyos**

As an active member of our Association and a part of the Board of Directors during the last four years, I have deeply understood and embraced the core of what belonging to Asocopi means: serving our teaching community by promoting growth possibilities all along the country, the region, and why not, worldwide. It is a complex and challenging task that requires a strong commitment, shared visions from different colleagues, and their teaching experiences in all levels of education. At the same time, we need the strong conviction to work together and raise our voices in a society and educational system that must look at the essence of our exercise: helping other human beings to find who they are. My intention is not to be perceived as an idealist but as an educator. My responsibility is to urge our community leaders to encourage ASOCOPI and leverage the narratives and historical experiences we have built. We have grown in these 59 years of service to the community; we have walked a path where we have understood the need to provide our associates with more inclusive, diverse, contextualized, and respectful language teaching practices.

As part of this understanding, we have crafted the 59<sup>th</sup> Asocopi Annual and 5<sup>th</sup> International Conference, and 4th LAALTA Conference, for a whole year. It has been a time of cooperation, negotiation, and polishing the details to talk about democracy and language education. Universidad del Norte, in Barranquilla, will be the scenario where all the attendees to our Event will share their deepest connections and constructions related to a process of learning assessment that focuses on social justice. In this sense, it is fair to say, that we are achieving another of our objectives: to promote the exchange of ideas, and experiences, both nationally and internationally. And this is how ASOCOPI goes beyond.

I would like to express my gratitude to ASOCOPI for trusting our Board of Directors for the 2022-2024 term. The Board has been committed to furthering our Association's mission to serve as a guiding light for every educator who has benefitted from or engaged with the various activities we have undertaken.

To the teachers attending our Conference 2024 looking for a space to grow, question, and learn together, I want them to know, they are the heart of Asocopi. To our international plenary speakers, Dr. Christian Walter, Dr. Priyanvada Abeywickrama, and Dr. Jamie L. Schissel, my deepest appreciation for participating in our conference and sharing your insights with the sole intention of fostering a stronger community. To our national plenary speakers Mg. Frank Giraldo, Dr. Katherine Bolaños, and Mg. Jorge Mario Perdomo Santacruz, you are part of that answer that ASOCOPI always looks.

To my ASOCOPI family members of the Board of Directors Kaithie Ramírez, Adriana Sánchez, Clara Lozano, Jhonatan Vásquez-Guarnizo, and our Administrative Manager, Myriam Vera, working with you every single week has taught me endurance and enriched my perspective on how so many different ideas and narratives can be together to accomplish a common objective: the good of our Association. I cherish you all!

To Edgar Lucero (HOW Editor) and José David Largo (HOW Assistant Editor): Thank you for believing that HOW Journal is the voice of our academic community and that all the different perspectives matter. To Sileny Villaveces, our accountant, your wisdom and vision always show more positive scenarios. All of you are Asocopi!

I would like to finish by stating that ASOCOPI deserves to grow and show our communities how relevant it is for teachers to work together looking for scenarios that enrich our knowledge, practices, and humanity. In that sense, 2025 will be a festive year for us, we will be celebrating 60 years of working together for the betterment of our profession. It will be amazing if all our members can contribute to activities along the regions and country, and why not, globally. In October 2025, we will get together in Santa Marta for our 60<sup>th</sup> National and 6<sup>th</sup> International Conference. Let's get ready to show the maturity of our beloved Association.