



BEST PRACTICES CLEARINGHOUSE

- Lessons from the Field -

Supporting Newcomer Students

Wednesday, September 6, 2023 | 3:00 – 4:30 PM ET
SPEAKER BIOS

Montserrat Garibay

Assistant Deputy Secretary & Director for the Office of English Language Acquisition, U.S. Department of Education



Ms. Montserrat Garibay is the Assistant Deputy Secretary & Director for the Office of English Language Acquisition at the U.S. Department of Education. Previously, she served as Senior Advisor for Labor Relations for the Office of the Secretary. She was the Secretary-Treasurer of the Texas AFL-CIO and also served as Vice President for Certified Employees with Education Austin, a merged union local with the American Federation of Teachers, National Education Association. Ms. Garibay came to the U.S. from Mexico City as an undocumented immigrant and became a citizen 20 years later. A bilingual pre-kindergarten teacher for eight years and National Board-Certified Teacher. She is a graduate of the National Labor Leadership Initiative with the Worker Institute at Cornell University. Ms. Garibay is a University of Texas -Austin graduate with a Master of Education.

Dr. Brenda Calderon

Senior Advisor, Office of Elementary & Secondary Education, U.S. Department of Education



Dr. Brenda Calderon is Senior Advisor in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education of the Biden- Harris administration at the U.S. Department of Education. She formerly served as the Senior Director for Policy at New Leaders. Prior to this role she was a Program Officer with the U.S. Department of Education where she oversaw millions of dollars in state grants to support schools with low income students, support services for English learners and improve teacher professional development. In 2020, she was appointed as a State Board Member for the Virginia Community College system by Governor Ralph Northam. She holds a BA in Political Science from UCLA, a M.A. in Education from Loyola Marymount University and a PhD in Education Policy from George Mason University.

Dr. Melissa Castillo

Senior Advisor, Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA), U.S. Department of Education



Dr. Melissa Castillo has over 28 years of experience in education. She previously served as the Associate Superintendent of Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion for the Arizona Department of Education, responsible for advancing educational opportunities and outcomes for diverse student populations. Dr. Castillo's professional career includes elementary teacher in dual language and bilingual programs, instructional coach, site and district administrator and educational consultant. Dr. Castillo co-authored the book *Language and Literacy for ELLs; Creating Systematic Change for Academic Achievement* and contributing author to *99 Ideas and Activities for Teaching English Learners with the SIOP® Model*. Dr. Castillo continues to work with educators and leaders across the country on planning and implementing asset-based systems, language programs, and instructional practices to meet the needs of diverse learners.

Dr. Fernanda Kray

Senior Technical Assistance Consultant, American Institutes for Research



Dr. Fernanda Marinho Kray, Ph.D., is Senior Technical Assistance Consultant at American Institutes for Research (AIR). Dr. Marinho Kray has authored an array of materials in the field of education and directed both local and large-scale policy and practice-oriented projects, frequently collaborating with practitioners and scholars from across the globe. Prior to joining AIR, Dr. Marinho Kray served as lead developer for the WIDA ELD Standards (University of Wisconsin-Madison), also supporting roll out and implementation efforts across 41 U.S. states and territories. Over the years, Dr. Marinho Kray has served as classroom teacher; community liaison; coach; and Curriculum and Professional Development Coordinator for the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. Building on her own experience as a formerly undocumented English learner, Dr. Marinho Kray has dedicated her life's work to developing interdisciplinary perspectives and research-based pedagogies for multicultural and multilingual learners.

Diana Torres

Technical Assistance Consultant, American Institutes for Research



Mrs. Diana Torres, M.Ed, is a Technical Assistance Consultant at AIR. She comes with over 12 years of experience as a classroom teacher, district instructional facilitator, and EL compliance auditor. Her passion for English learners comes from her personal experience as an immigrant and English learner herself. Her passion continues to grow as she has a three-year old son that loves playing with language English and Spanish. She has seen language development as an educator and as a parent. Mrs. Torres uses this knowledge to support educators and families in making the best educational decisions for our English Learners. She believes all students should always feel welcome, heard, and supported. She is fluent in English and Spanish.

Dr. Karime Asaf

Chief of Language and Cultural Education, Chicago Public Schools, IL



Dr. Karime Asaf is a Colombian-Jordanian who migrated to Chicago in 1980. Language and culture have always been central in her life as a bilingual educator, school leader, and parent.

Dr. Asaf has been connected with the Chicago Public Schools since she was a student at Senn High School. She has extensive experience as a bilingual and special education teacher. As a school administrator, she has served at CPS elementary and high schools, with a particular focus on programmatic innovation, biliteracy, and diverse learner support in inclusive settings. Under her leadership, these schools showed strong and consistent academic growth because of her focus on meaningful student engagement, social-emotional supports, professional learning, and distributive leadership.

In her latest role as the chief of Network 4, she was responsible for 34 elementary schools on Chicago's North Side. She collaborated with school leaders to ensure that educators and students felt safe and supported while having the resources necessary to discover their academic genius. This role was a natural transition from her previous position as the deputy chief of Network 7, where she assisted school leaders serving Pilsen, Little Village, and other West Side neighborhoods.

In her current role with the Chicago Public Schools, Dr. Asaf serves as the Chief Officer of the Office of Language and Cultural Education. She holds a doctorate in educational leadership and a master's degree in reading and special education from DePaul University. Her bachelor's degree is from Northeastern Illinois University in Bilingual/Multicultural Education with a minor in Spanish Literature.

Jessica Gonzalez

EL Coordinator/ SEI Instructor, Ludlow Public Schools, MA



Mrs. Jessica Gonzalez is the English Learner Sheltered English Instructional Coordinator for the Ludlow Public Schools in Ludlow, MA. She has undergraduate degrees in psychology, education and Spanish and a Masters of Arts in Educational Psychology. She is a dedicated bilingual, bi-cultural educational leader with over 20 years of experience, specializing in diverse learners. Mrs. Gonzalez has worked in a variety of educational settings including urban schools, suburban schools, and the Massachusetts Department of Education as the LEP/Special Education Coordinator. In addition, Jessica has taught adult learners, in recent years as well. Mrs. Gonzalez has a passion for learning about new cultures and languages, she finds joy in supporting EL families, and is inspired when coaching teachers and children.

Personally, Mrs. Gonzalez is a mother of four, a wife, an avid cake baker, and loves traveling.

Andrew Johnson, LMSW

International Welcome Center Coordinator, Austin Independent School District, TX



Mr. Andrew Johnson received his Master in Social Work degree from the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University in St. Louis, specializing in organizational management and economic development. However, much of his professional focus has been working with immigrants and refugees.

Moving to Austin, TX almost 7 years ago, he first worked as a refugee resettlement case manager and then as a school social worker for Austin Independent School District.

In his current role as the Coordinator of Austin ISD's International Welcome Center, Mr. Johnson manages two teams of Liaisons who help to welcome international students to AISD for the first time.

Dr. Ryan Rumpf

Program Administrator, Kansas City Public Schools International Welcome Center, MO



Dr. Ryan Rumpf, Ed.D., currently serves as the principal of the Global Academy in Kansas City Public schools, a half-day elementary program for recently arrived immigrants and refugees. Over the past 20 years, he has been an elementary, middle and high school English Language Development (ELD) teacher, an ELD coordinator and the Curriculum Director for ELD at the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education. His passion is designing and implementing innovative academic approaches for ELs at all proficiency levels, but especially newcomers and SIFE students.

Gabriela Uro

Director for English Language Learner Policy and Research, Council of the Great City Schools, Washington D.C.



Ms. Gabriela Uro is Director for English Language Learner Policy and Research for the Council of the Great City Schools, where she is responsible for all matters pertaining to English Language Learners (ELLs). As part of the legislative team, she works on legislative matters relevant to ELLs, both with Capitol Hill and the Administration. She is the lead for Strategic Support Teams reviewing ELL programs in Council districts, and providing technical assistance, as needed. She is the Council's lead for ELL issues related to the implementation of the Common Core or new state standards in member districts.

Ms. Uro has led or co-authored a number of publications including A Framework for Raising Expectations and Instructional Rigor for English Language Learners, the comprehensive report on English Language Learners in America's Great City Schools, and Succeeding with English Language Learners--an influential study that revealed systemic factors contributing to improving ELL achievement in large urban districts. She oversees several grant-funded projects focused on improving instructional rigor for ELLs, totaling close to \$1.5 million.

Prior to joining the Council in 1997, Ms. Uro served as the Policy Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Director of the Office of Bilingual Education (now English Acquisition) in the U.S. Department of Education and was part of the Department's Team for the 1994 ESEA Reauthorization. She joined the Clinton Administration in 1994 and prior to working at the federal level was an education budget analyst for the California State Legislature Budget Committee and the Chancellor of the University of California, Los Angeles.

Ms. Uro received her M.P.A. from Columbia University with a specialization in Education Policy and her B.A. in Social Science degree from the University of California, Irvine (magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa).