



15th Annual Our Kids Summer Institute Presenters and Topics

Margarita Calderon

Dr. Margarita Calderón, Professor Emerita, Johns Hopkins University has served on national preschool-12th literacy panels and advisory boards (National Research Council, ETS, WIDA, National Center for Learning Disabilities, National Literacy Panel for Language Minority Children and Youth). She is a consultant for the U.S. Department of Justice and Office of Civil Rights. Her research interest focuses on professional development, effective schools, language and literacy development of English learners.

She was principal investigator in a 5-year study in middle and high schools called ExC-ELL funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York that developed a program to train math, science, social studies, and language arts teachers on integrating academic language, reading comprehension, writing skills and content knowledge to help ELs and their non-EL peers achieve in the mainstream classrooms. ExC-ELL has been widely implemented in many schools, districts, and state-wide Institutes since then.

Dr. Calderón and George Washington University are current recipients of a Title III five-year grant to implement and study “A Whole-School Approach to Professional Development with ExC-ELL” in schools in Virginia.

She has over 100 publications, is an international speaker, invited to do keynote speeches at major conferences, and conducts comprehensive professional development programs throughout the country.

Diane Staehr Fenner

Diane Staehr Fenner, Ph.D., is the president of [SupportEd](#). Diane founded SupportEd (formerly DSF Consulting) in 2011 as a way to serve all stakeholders who work to help ELs realize their full potential. At SupportEd, Diane serves as project lead for all the team’s work and communicates directly with clients. Some recent projects include developing a suite of five blended EL professional development modules for the National Education Association, creating a set of English language proficiency standards for adults and an online training module for the U.S. Department Education in partnership with the American Institutes for Research, revising the P-12 Professional Teaching Standards for TESOL International Association, and providing ESOL program support and technical assistance to the Syracuse City School District (NY).

Diane is an author of four books, a blogger for the Colorín Colorado website, and a frequent keynote presenter on EL education at conferences across North America. Diane was a research associate at

George Washington University's Center for Excellence and Equity in Education, spent a decade as an ESOL teacher, dual language assessment teacher, and ESOL assessment specialist in Fairfax County Public Schools, VA, and taught English in Mexico and Germany. Diane earned her Ph.D. in Multilingual/Multicultural Education with an emphasis in Literacy at George Mason University. She earned her MAT in TESOL at the School for International Training and her Masters in German at Penn State University.

She lives in Fairfax, VA with her husband, three elementary age kids who are in a Spanish immersion program in their public school, a dog, a few fish, and an elderly hamster. Diane speaks fluent Spanish and German, grew up on a dairy farm in New York State's Finger Lakes region, and is a first-generation college graduate.

Alba Ortiz

Alba Ortiz, Ph.D., is a professor at the University of Texas at Austin. Dr. Ortiz works on developing models for effective schools and instructional delivery system of minority students; preventing academic underachievement of hispanic students; and has created a pre-referral intervention process. She is one of the nation's leading experts on questions of special education for English language learners (ELLs). Dr. Ortiz will be discussing challenges related to special education identification, ideas for making ELL families an integral part of all decisions related to students, and best practices for instruction.

Lindsay Meeker

Lindsay is a Director of English Learners at CUSD and she has demonstrated a history of increasing Achievement for ELs! She is an active educational consultant with trend data that shows high learner satisfaction. Her experiences are in higher education, support teacher/coach with ELs and a special education teacher. She has strong education and skills in English as a Second Language (ESL), Public Speaking, Curriculum Development, Special Education, and Children's Yoga.

Other conference topics include:

- Preventing long-term English Learners
- Key strategies for supporting core content learning
- EL parent engagement
- Building academic language
- Benefits of co-teaching for English Learners
- EL - specific laws and implications of the laws for instruction
- Interpreting ELPA21 Data
- English Learners and Special Education
- Simulation of English Learners at various levels of language proficiency
- Early Childhood/Poetry and Words
- Cultural Awareness