

*Announcing ...*

## **The Institute for Language and Education Policy Research-Based Advocacy for Schools and Communities**

Dear Colleague:

You are invited to join with us in building a new organization dedicated to promoting research-based policies in serving English-language and heritage-language learners.

We believe this mission has never been more critical. In a time of misguided “accountability” measures, high-stakes testing, cutbacks in school funding, and English-only activism, strong advocacy for children is essential. Scientific knowledge about what works – not ideology or political expedience – must guide public policy.

Our goals are ambitious:

- Encourage and disseminate research on education policy and practice.
- Educate the public and policymakers about the benefits of bilingual and heritage-language education for individuals, communities, and the nation as a whole.
- Represent the needs of English language learners as Congress moves to reauthorize – and, we hope, reform – the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.
- Support grassroots efforts by local and professional organizations to secure adequate resources for quality language programs at all levels.
- Combat English-only legislation that threatens to restrict the rights and educational prospects of language-minority Americans.
- Create professional development opportunities for educational practitioners.

Our immediate plans include launching a Web site to advance this agenda; producing research briefs on timely issues; working with news media to elevate the level of public discussion; developing a national network of expert-advocates; and seeking funding that will be needed to achieve our goals.

**To succeed in these efforts, we need your help.**

One way is to volunteer your time and talents to the cause. Another is to become a founding member of the Institute by contributing \$100 (or more) in startup money. Please use the membership form at the end of this message or download it from <http://users.rcn.com/crawj/Announcing.pdf>.

We have already incorporated as a nonprofit organization and will soon be filing for 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status with the Internal Revenue Service. Your donation will be tax-deductible.

**Who We Are**

Plans for the Institute emerged out of discussions among educators, researchers, administrators, policymakers, friends, and supporters of bilingual and heritage language education. We came together to remedy what we see as a lack of organized response to policy decisions that defy research findings and harm language-minority students and communities.

An Institute for Language and Education Policy is needed to fill this leadership vacuum. What we are proposing is not a new professional association to compete with existing associations, but an organizational structure that can rise to this call to action and address the challenges now facing our field.

We believe there is an abundance of scientific knowledge, professional expertise, and personal commitment available today to advocate for the children and communities we serve. What's needed is effective leadership to make sure that occurs.

We urge you to join us in this important work.

Alfredo Artiles	David Freeman	Jeff MacSwan	Sharon Adelman Reyes
David Bautista	Yvonne Freeman	Kate Menken	Ana Roca
Maria Brisk	Salvador Gabaldón	Robert Milk	Kellie Rolstad
Clara Lee Brown	Ofelia García	Teresa McCarty	José A. Ruiz-Escalante
Cathrene Connery	Michael Genzuk	Mary Lou McCloskey	Sheryl Santos
Ellen Riojas Clark	John Halcón	Lois Meyer	Fay Shin
Mary Carol Combs	April Haulman	Rick Meyer	Melanie Stuart
James Crawford	Esau Ruiz Herrera	Sonia Nieto	Josefina V. Tinajero
Jim Cummins	Sarah Hudelson	Denis O'Leary	Lucy Tse
Ester de Jong	Craig Hughes	Ricardo Otheguy	Concepción Valadez
Pauline Dow	Stephen Krashen	John Petrovic	Terrence Wiley
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Rosa Castro Feinberg	Grace McField	Luis O. Reyes	Wayne Wright
Lily Wong Fillmore	Jeff McQuillan	María de la Luz Reyes	

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Yes, I want to support the Institute for Language and Education Policy as a founding member.

My check is enclosed for  \$100  \$200  \$500  Other  
\$ \_\_\_\_\_

I want to volunteer my skills and expertise in

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Checks to: Institute for Language and Education Policy

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