

**Investing in Our Next Generation:
Addressing the Educational Opportunities and Challenges Facing English Language Learners**

June 22-23, 2010 ■ New York City, NY

Presented in partnership with Grantmakers Concerned with Immigrants and Refugees (GCIR) and Philanthropy New York

AGENDA

Address: Le Parker Meridien, 119 West 56th Street, Tansa Room, 3rd Floor

Learning Outcomes:

1. Highlight the importance of grantmakers' efforts to address the needs of English Language Learners (ELL) students while exploring successful strategies for making ELL investments a priority within grantmaking organizations;
2. Identify and offer a continuum of strategies - from programmatic investments to policy engagement - grantmakers can use to improve outcomes and opportunities for ELL students within the context of their families and communities;
3. Examine opportunities and strategies for using public policy to ensure ELL issues can be scaled;
4. Encourage grantmakers to discover common goals and to consider collaborative funding efforts across different areas of interest; and
5. Identify specific initiatives and opportunities for funders seeking partnership around improving outcomes for ELL students.

Tuesday, June 22, 2010

12:00 – 12:30 pm Registration

12:30 – 1:00 pm Welcome Lunch: Framing the Days Ahead

One in ten K-12 students is an English Language Learner (ELL), and limited English proficient students are the most rapidly growing population in U.S. elementary schools. For America to maintain both our healthy democracy and our (threatened) position as a global leader, we must begin in earnest to meet the complex needs of ELL students, who may be new immigrants or second-generation Americans. Together we'll explore challenges, opportunities and strategies to improve outcomes and opportunities ELLs within the context of their families and communities.

- Welcome: **JOHN BRANAM**, director of programs, Grantmakers for Education, and **IRENE LEE**, director of the successful working family unit, Center for Family Economic Success, The Annie E. Casey Foundation

GFE appreciates the following organizations' generous support of this member briefing:

The Annie E. Casey Foundation



**1:00 – 2:00 pm Lunchtime Keynote: Educating English Language Learners:
Why Doing So Matters More Than Ever**

America is in the middle of an identity crisis. For decades, our nation has seemed ambivalent about ELL students' success, perhaps because the depth of the challenge has been masked by our economic prosperity. If America is to remain globally competitive, however, we must confront this attitude and view the achievement of ELL students as a critical priority. Far easier stated than done, thought leader Eugene García will frame this national challenge, note its key elements and landmines, identify the opportunities and implications for educators, communities and grantmakers, and invite briefing participants into a discussion that will begin our thoughtful two-day journey together.

- Keynote remarks: **EUGENE GARCÍA**, vice president, education partnerships, Arizona State University

2:00 – 2:15 pm Break

**2:15 – 3:30 pm Deepening the Context: Why Grantmakers Must Prioritize Addressing ELL students' Needs
and How the use of Data can Help**

While states like New York, California and Texas continue to serve the largest numbers of ELL students, the fastest increases in ELL populations (growing at explosive rates over 250%) are occurring in states such as South Carolina, Kentucky and Delaware, where school systems have not previously served many ELL students. Highlighting the lessons learned by two experienced grantmakers, this session will examine how grantmakers can increase awareness of the importance of addressing the needs of ELLs in part through the use of data, while also inspiring schools and communities to meet ELL's educational and social needs. Following speaker presentations, participants will engage in small group discussions before reporting back to the larger group.

- **RUBY TAKANISHI**, president and CEO, The Foundation for Child Development
- **DIANA GONZALES WORTHEN**, board member, Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation
- Moderator: **JANN JACKSON**, senior fellow, The Annie E. Casey Foundation

3:30 – 3:45 pm Break

3:45 – 5:15 pm Understanding ELL Student Needs: Smart Strategies for Improving Educational Outcomes

Improving ELLs educational outcomes must be a team effort led by our schools and supported by community partners such as libraries and foundations. This session will begin with a review of how Montgomery County Public Schools has achieved impressive gains in academic achievement for its English Learners with policies and program strategies beginning in pre-K. We will then examine how in-school strategies can be strengthened and complemented by offering robust afterschool programming and parent literacy strategies, respectively. Panelists will also examine promising strategies and investment opportunities in the following areas: teacher professional development; parent engagement; and policy engagement.

- **JANINE BACQUIE**, director of the division of early childhood programs and services, Montgomery County Public Schools, MD
- **CLAUDIA WEISBURD**, senior advisor, Foundations, Inc.
- **SILVANA VASCONCELOS**, program manager, Family Literacy Programs, Queens Library, NYC
- Moderator: **HEDY CHANG**, consultant

Wednesday, June 23, 2010

8:30 – 9:00 am Networking Breakfast

9:00 – 10:30 am Making ELL Students a Priority for Philanthropy: Implications for Grantmakers

Despite the fact that many grantmakers investing in education do so with a bent towards creating opportunities for underserved students, and that most of these grantmakers are aware of the dramatic shifts in our nation's demographics, few have made explicit the charge of addressing the special needs of ELL students. For many reasons making this shift is not easy. During this panel you'll hear from three experienced grantmakers whose organizations have put ELL issues at the center of their organizational plate as they outline the strategies they've employed, and the pitfalls you should avoid, as you help your organization engage similarly.

- **LORI BEZAHLER**, executive director, Hazen Foundation
- **KEN DOANE**, senior program officer, S.H. Cowell Foundation
- **ANDRÉS HENRÍQUEZ**, program officer, Carnegie Corporation of New York
- Moderator: **HEDY CHANG**, consultant

10:30 – 10:45 pm Break

10:45 – 12:00 pm Interest-based Conversations

Prior to this gathering, we provided participants with a list of possible ELL interests, soliciting their thoughts regarding the issues about which they would most want dialogue with colleagues. During this time participants will meet with similarly-interested colleagues to discuss common challenges, identify solutions and share interests in collaborating.

12:00 – 1:00 pm Networking Lunch

1:00 – 2:30 pm Panel: Addressing ELL Needs at Scale: Opportunities For Engaging in ELL Public Policy – Strategies that Can Help You Make it Happen

Given the explosive ELL growth and the national urgency around dramatically raising achievement for all students, strategies for supporting ELLs must be scaled at a level that all-but requires public policy strategies. With this framing in mind, this session will examine the existing federal policy landscape; explore grantmaker strategies for engaging effectively at the local, state and federal levels of government; and discuss the key organizational prerequisite steps to help ensure grantmakers are indeed well-positioned to engage effectively around ELL policy.

- **PEDRO NOGUERA**, professor, New York University
- **DELIA POMPA**, vice president, education, National Council of La Raza
- **THELMA MÉLENDEZ DE SANTA ANA**, assistant secretary of education, US Department of Education
- Moderator: **YOLIE FLORES**, vice president, Los Angeles Unified School Board

2:30 – 2:45 pm Break

2:45 – 4:15 pm Collaborating for Success/ Briefing Wrap-up

Integrating the conversation over the past two days, Irene Lee, The Annie E. Casey Foundation's director of the successful working family unit, Center for Family Economic Success and GFE's director of programs John Branam will guide participants through a summative conversation to highlight some of the key themes and emergent opportunities for funders. Building on the interest-based conversations from earlier in the day, the group will identify specific initiatives and action steps that funders would like to take in coordination with other grantmakers. Participants will further develop opportunities in small groups and report out on key takeaways to help move this work forward.

We appreciated the advice of the following grantmakers in designing this program:

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LAUREN WOLKOV, Central Valley Foundation

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