

BRIEF BIOGRAPHIES OF PRESENTERS – NAM DIRECTORS' MEETING

Rosalinda B. Barrera, Ph.D.

President Obama named Rosalinda B. Barrera assistant deputy secretary and director of the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) on Aug. 23, 2010. She is the principal adviser to Secretary Arne Duncan on all matters related to the education of English Learners, now estimated to be about 10 percent of the total school enrollment nationwide. As head of OELA, Barrera administers programs under Titles III and V of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which support high-quality instructional programs for linguistically and culturally diverse students.

Sharon Ballew

Sharon Ballew is the Federal Programs Director at Tenkiller School in Oklahoma. Sharon has been in education for 29 years, with this being her 26th year to work with bilingual education programs for Native American children. During her tenure as a Project Director, she has learned to write and evaluate grants and has been successful in obtaining funding in different educational program areas for several schools in northeast Oklahoma. Sharon is the proud mother of two sons and an even "prouder" grandmother of two!

Gina Hrinko

Gina Hrinko is the Project Director at Yukon-Koyukuk School District, AK

Angela Larson

Angela Larson is the owner and principal consultant for the Goldstream Group where she has been evaluating education programs since 2003. Prior to her role as an evaluator, Angela developed special projects for the Fairbanks North Star Borough School District and worked for the Fairbanks Native Association as the director of program planning and development. Angela holds a Master's degree in public administration and a teaching certificate from the state of Alaska.

William Mendoza

Bill Mendoza is a member of the Oglala Sioux Tribe and is also Sicangu Lakota (Aske Gluwipi Tiospaye). He grew up on the Pine Ridge and Rosebud Sioux reservations in South Dakota. Bill has been a tribal college student at Haskell Indian Nations University, Sinte Gleska University, and Oglala Lakota College and these experiences deeply inform his inspiration and capacity for academic and professional work.

Anthony Miller

Tony Miller is the deputy secretary and chief operating officer at the U.S. Department of Education. In this role, he manages a broad range of operational, management and program functions.

Mari B. Rasmussen

Mari is an Associate Director at the National Clearinghouse on English Language Acquisition at The George Washington University. Mari is responsible for maintaining the Title III State Information System section of the website at NCELA, along with providing technical assistance information related to Title III and ELs for State Education Agency personnel in the nation. Mari draws on nearly 20 years of

experience working with state activities, including her work with the North Dakota Department of Public Instruction, her terms on the board of the National Council of State Title III Directors, and involvement with several state consortia related to assessment, such as the Mountain West Assessment Consortium and the World Class Instructional Design and Assessment Consortium (WIDA).

Nāmaka Rawlins

Nāmaka Rawlins is the Outreach Specialist, `Aha Pūnana Leo, Inc., Liaison of Ka Haka `Ula-O ke`elikō. Ms Rawlins was raised in the Keaukaha Hawaiian Homestead. She serves as the past chair of the federally mandated state Native Hawaiian Education Council and is on the advisory board of the State of Hawai'i Office of Language Access. She recently completed her 3-year term on the board of the National Indian Education Association. For nearly 30 years, she has been part of a core group that established the first total Native American language immersion program. Leading this effort has been the 'Aha Pūnana Leo non-profit, for which Nāmaka served as Executive Director for 20 years. Currently Nāmaka serves as the organization's senior advisor for strategic collaborations relating to the full P-20 (preschool to graduate school) program taught through Hawaiian established under Nāmaka's leadership. She has extensive experience helping tribal groups establish "language nests," "language survival schools," and "Native language colleges" including hosting groups to the 'Aha Pūnana Leo developed model site in Hilo Hawai'i.

Cynthia Ryan

Cynthia Ryan is the director of the Discretionary Grants Division at OELA which oversees three discretionary grant programs, including Title III's National Professional Development (NPD) program and Native American and Alaska Native Children in School programs and Title V's Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP).

Joyce A. Silverthorne

Joyce Silverthorne is director of the Office of Indian Education at the U.S. Department of Education.

Trini Torres-Carrion

Trini Torres-Carrion is the Education Program Specialist at the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA)

Carolyn Vincent

Carolyn Vincent is Vice President of RMC Research Corporation's Arlington, Virginia office. Over the years, she has worked with USED, SEAs, and LEAs on initiatives related to English language learners and Title I school improvement. Most recently, she has had the honor of working with OELA in developing The Talking Stick.

Otis Wilson

Mr. Otis Wilson is a Senior Management Analyst, Office of the Deputy Secretary at the U.S. Department of Education, Washington, DC. In July 1994, he began his Federal career as a Presidential Outstanding Scholar. Otis is responsible for training and instructing grant stakeholders at National, Regional and local conferences, conveying the significance of the grant rules and regulations. He is also responsible for training Education staff on the importance of monitoring and grant's administration. Mission focus and collaboration are the keys to success!