



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

OFFICE OF ENGLISH LANGUAGE ACQUISITION, LANGUAGE ENHANCEMENT,
AND ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT FOR LIMITED ENGLISH PROFICIENT STUDENTS

Dear Colleague:

We in the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) are pleased to announce an exciting new project for 2011-- a series of "*National Conversations on English Learner Education*" -- to be conducted in partnership with the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education (OESE), the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanic Americans and the White House Initiative on Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. We cordially invite your attendance and participation.

The goal of these dialogues is to bring together key stakeholders to engage in dynamic and meaningful conversations on what makes for quality education for English Learners in the 21st century. A diverse assembly of English Learner stakeholders, including educators, school administrators, researchers, parents, students, advocates, and policy makers, will have the opportunity to identify current areas of major concern, share promising practices for classrooms and schools, and define new directions for reform and transformation in English Learner Education.

The series consists of three common dialogues on different dates, each with one satellite site. The open space process, designed to elicit optimal participation by all attendees, will be the primary conference format. An overview of this conference series follows:

<i>Date</i>	<i>Main Site</i>	<i>Satellite Site</i>
Feb. 10-11	Dallas, TX	Chicago, IL
March 7-8	Los Angeles, CA	Seattle, WA
April 11-12	New York City, NY	Charlotte, NC

It is our hope that we can work together to make this series of conversations a success and a first step towards an ongoing discussion to address the challenging issues of ensuring a quality education for all English Learners. I look forward to seeing you at one of the National Conversations on English Learner Education.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rosalinda B. Barrera".

Rosalinda B. Barrera, Ph.D.
Assistant Deputy Secretary
Director, Office of English Language Acquisition
U.S. Department of Education