

Kiva Conversation, afternoon of Day 1 and Open Space Process—all day Day 2

The focus of our time together will be “**What Makes for Quality Education for English Learners in the 21st Century?**” a theme broad enough to capture any EL education-related issues you might wish to discuss.

Day 1, afternoon -- Kiva Conversation

The Kiva conversation will revolve around the following three questions addressed individually in three separate rounds:

- Round 1-- *What should we **stop** doing in EL Education?* What current classroom/school practices and policies are disadvantaging EL students and getting in the way of their academic progress? What ought to be eliminated?
- Round 2 -- *What should we **keep** doing in EL Education?* What current classroom/school practices and policies are having a positive impact on EL students’ learning and achievement? What ought to be maintained?
- Round 3 -- *What should we **start** doing in EL Education?* What envisioned policies and practices would serve to ensure a quality education for ELs in the 21st century? What ought to be initiated?

We ask you to consider your answers to these questions ahead of time and come prepared to share your thoughts with your colleagues.

Day 2, all day—Open Space Process

This day-long session will allow you and your colleagues to set the agenda, share what you know, and ask for advice on topics for which you don’t have answers. The Open Space process is designed to respond to participants’ interests for discussion and to build on the knowledge, experience and talents each participant brings into the room. The typical conference questions -- *Who are the speakers? What is the agenda? How long do we have for each topic? Which workshops are they offering?* – are irrelevant.

How does Open Space work?

You identify the specific topics, issues and questions you want to explore within the general theme of the National Conversations.

Together, you create the agenda and place it on a community board for all to see.

You as a participant take the lead to

- Present what you have learned and want to share with others
- Open a conversation on a burning question or topic you want to explore with other participants
- Attend only those sessions that truly interest and engage you, and
- Capture the specific ideas, suggestions, recommendations, and key themes from your small-group sessions and compile them into a set of *Proceedings* for all to share.

There will be different levels of knowledge and experience represented by each person participating in the group conversation. Open Space is grounded in the principle that there are no hierarchies, i.e., all participants have equal status. Everyone is a learner and real-world expert who is invited to share what he/she knows or to seek information on what he/she does not know. And, everyone has the responsibility to do what it takes to make the most of the discussions.

To make the Open Space Process work, we need you to consider contributing in the following ways:

1. **Share/Teach** -- What EL-related session topics would you be willing to lead for discussion? Are there particular experiences and “lessons learned” you could share?
2. **Learn/Listen**- What EL-related topics are you interested in learning more about from other participants? Which would you be willing to lead or co-lead?
3. **Materials/Handouts**- Are there any materials or handouts you wish to share when you lead or co-lead a group discussion session? If so, please bring copies of these.
4. **Responsibility & Passion**- Bring your responsibility to make the process work for everyone, and most importantly, bring your passion.

Please think ahead of time of any key topics you would like to address at the National Conversation. This day-long experience promises to be highly informative and professionally stimulating because the agenda of discussion topics will be created and led by all of you together.