



## ***What Makes for Quality Education for English Learners in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century?***

What Needs To Be Included and What Actions Can We Take:  
Lessons Learned from the Past and New ideas for Today

### **Open Space Report: Seattle**

As a convener, we would like you to put together a short report from your group describing the following:

**1. Names of group members**

Judith Kimmel-Ramirez	Farhiya Omer
Nancy Burke	Barbara Mendoza
Tracy Koncilja	Liwliwa Ucol
Iris Viveros	Yen Hoang
Margaret Ho	Francie Christopher
Lorena Norris	Connie Maipa
Rachel Couture	

**2. Issue/Topic/Activity**

Creating an online information website to provide for educators to develop their cultural competencies for the cultures in the classrooms

**3. Highlights of Discussion/Recommendations/Next Action Steps**

- Francie shared a website that provides an online template for ELL students to share information about themselves that they want their teachers to know about them. (see resources for link)
- Seattle has a written resource called Cultural Cues that was created by bilingual instructional assistants. These are available to teachers as a resource for increasing cultural competency.
- Can we create an online resource similar to the written document Cultural Cues? The biggest obstacle is funding/resources.
- The video should offer an authentic voice for different cultures. Don't want it to be stereotypical.
- One participant shared that what is useful for teachers in learning about what the schools were like for the parents. What are the parents telling their children will happen in school? What is valued in the school systems? This kind of information is very valuable for teachers in understanding their students. They don't necessarily need to know about food, holidays etc.

- In Kansas there have been some videos developed in which former ELL students talk to teachers about what they need to understand about their experiences in school.
- Also in Kansas, there have been mini-documentaries created by different ethnic groups. These were grant-funded. Seattle should get a grant to create videos.
- School staff needs to learn about school systems in home countries but families also need to learn about US school system/expectations so that a happy medium can be found.
- Home visits are incredibly helpful in helping teachers and families understand each other better. They help develop a positive bond between school and family.

#### 4. Available Resources

- PREL- for information about Pacific Islanders
- Micronesia Development Organization: [cmaipa@micdev.org](mailto:cmaipa@micdev.org)
- The Lion Share by Said Salah Ahmed. Somali-English book about fractions. In Somalia this book is used to teach fractions.
- <http://catpages.nwmissouri.edu/m/francie>  
online student information template

#### 5. Follow-up requests

#### 6. Next steps/Action Items/Recommendations

#### 7. Please type in this report in one of the laptops and hand in this sheet. Thanks!