



**Building Capacity to Promote College- and Career-Readiness for English Language Learners
Austin, Texas
American Youth Policy Forum Field Trip—May 9-11, 2010**

Hotel:

The Driskill
604 Brazos Street, Austin, TX 78701
(800) 252-9367/ www.driskillhotel.com

Sunday, May 9:

Flights arrive in the afternoon.

6:00pm **Welcome Reception and Briefing on Key Policy Issues**
AYPF Team and Participants
Location: Driskill Hotel, Crystal Room

Monday, May 10:

Location: Driskill Hotel, Citadel Club and Citadel Rooms

7:00- 7:45 **Breakfast Available**

7:45- 8:30 **Introductions and Opening Remarks**

8:30- 9:00 **Setting the Stage: Texas' Framework for College- and Career Readiness**
Lizzette Reynolds, Deputy Commissioner, Statewide Policy and Programs, Texas
Education Agency (TEA)

9:00-10:00 **Texas's Systems of Rigorous Instruction and Assessment for English Language
Learners (ELLs)**
Susie Coultriss, Director of Bilingual/ESL Education, TEA
Laura Ayala, Director of ELL Assessment, TEA
Roberto Manzo, Program Manager, Limited English Proficient Student Success Initiative,
TEA

10:00-10:15 **Break**

10:15-11:30 **Prioritizing ELLs in Austin Independent School District (AISD)**
Dr. Meria Carstarphen, Superintendent, AISD
Dr. Ramona Trevino, Chief Academic Officer, AISD
Mollie Avelino, Director of Secondary ESL, AISD
Celia Glick, Director of Dual Language, AISD

11:30-12:15 **Bridging Research, Policy, and Practice: A Whole-School Model of Change**
Dr. Aída Walqui, West Ed; Principal Katherine Ryan, Lanier High School; Principal Leticia Vega, International High School

12:15- 1:00 **Lunch**

1:00-1:30 *Travel to Lanier High School*

1:30-3:15 **Site Visit to Lanier High School**
1201 Payton Gin Road, Austin, TX, 78758; 512-414-2514
Principal Katherine Ryan
Edmund Oropez, Director of High School Operations

Lanier is the comprehensive high school that has the largest enrollment of ELLs in the district (approximately 475 ELLs). This school has participated in the three-year Quality Education for Teachers of English Learners (QTEL) initiative with West Ed, in order to train all teachers in effective strategies for working with ELLs. The QTEL process has also used an apprenticeship model to train cohorts of teachers to serve as coaches and professional developers for other AISD schools, and Lanier has served as a demonstration site for educators throughout the district. Lanier has raised pass rates on the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) from 2007 through 2009 for all students, in all subject areas, and Lanier's ELLs have seen particularly strong gains. Gaps remain, but significant growth is being made toward closing them.

3:15-3:45 **Presentation on AISD's Immigrant College Access Program**
Evangelina Orozco, Immigrant College Coordinator

The Immigrant College Access Program aims to provide students and families with information about policies affecting their access to higher education, increase college-going aspirations among immigrant students, and offer assistance with the college admission and financial aid processes.

3:45-5:00 **Team Debrief Exercise**

5:00-5:30 *Return to Hotel*

6:15-6:30 *Depart for Dinner (via taxi)*

6:30- 8:30 **Dinner with Keynote Speaker**
Texas Senator Leticia Van De Putte
Location: Z-Tejas Grill
1110 W. Sixth Street, Austin, TX, 78703; 512-478-5355

Tuesday, May 11:

7:00-8:00 Breakfast Available

Location: Driskill Hotel, Maximillian Room

8:00-8:30 Travel to International High School

8:30- 10:30 Site Visit to International High School

1012 Arthur Stiles Road, Austin, TX, 78721; 512-414-6817

(Shares a Campus with Eastside Memorial High School)

Principal Leticia Vega

The International High School (IHS) was developed to address the needs of recent immigrant students in grades 9-10, ages 14-16. Students at IHS speak 16 different native languages. The goal of the IHS program is to enable students to attain a high level of proficiency in Academic English while acquiring the academic skills necessary to meet the societal demands of an ever-changing global society, allowing students to succeed in core content area courses and meet the standards and requirements for graduation.

10:30-11:00 Travel to Region XIII ESC

11:00- 12:00 Building Human Capital Through Institutional Partnerships

Location: Region XIII Education Service Center (ESC), Rosewood Room

5701 Springdale Road, Austin, TX, 78723; (512) 919-5313

Dr. Ervin Knezek, Deputy Director of Academic Services, Region XIII ESC

Janet O'Keefe, Bilingual/ESL Education Specialist, Region XIII ESC

Mollie Avelino, Director of Secondary ESL; AISD

Dr. Deb Palmer, Project Director, Proyecto Maestría Collaborative for Teacher

Leadership in Bilingual and ESL Education, University of Texas at Austin

The Bilingual/ ESL Program at Region XIII provides training and technical assistance to the 60 districts in its purview in the areas of effective language programs, Title III program administration, curriculum modifications for bilingual/ ESL/ title III programs, and other areas. In partnership with AISD, Region XIII provides an ESL Academy that offers training for AISD teachers to achieve their ESL Certification. The Proyecto Maestría Collaborative aims to improve the quality and increase the quantity of highly skilled ESL teachers in the Austin metropolitan area through a summer institute and a special Master's program for current bilingual/ ESL teachers.

12:00-12:10 Break; Lunch will be Served

12:10-1:00 Meeting the Needs of Rural and Smaller Districts Through Shared Services

Janet O'Keefe, Bilingual/ESL Education Specialist, Region XIII ESC

Dennis Hill, Superintendent, Llano Independent School District

Region XIII also works with rural districts to support their ELL students. Districts with smaller ELL populations can enter into Shared Service Agreements with Region XII to receive Title III support services and funding. The Llano Independent School District is a small district that has worked with Region XIII to build the capacity of educators to work with their growing ELL population, and has developed initiatives to engage immigrant parents.

1:00-2:00 Team Debrief Exercise

2:00 Adjourn; Depart for Airport