

Hauser Policy Fund Webinar Series, Fall 2021

Promoting the Educational Success of Children and Youth Learning English

Supreet Anand has been working in the field of education for more than 25 years. She currently serves as the acting assistant deputy secretary and director for the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA). As the acting director for OELA, she informs policy decisions on English Learners (ELs), supervises OELA's role in disseminating information on educational research, practices, and policies for ELs through the [National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition](#). Her work also includes supervising the discretionary grant programs under Title III of the Every Students Succeeds Act (ESSA). Dr. Anand has also supervised formula grant programs, Title I, Title II, Title III under ESSA in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education. Before joining ED, she served as the Title III director for the Maryland State Department of Education and supervised the Title III program in Prince George's County Public Schools, Maryland. In addition, she taught English as a second language in grades K-12 for over ten years and master's level courses at the University of Maryland. Dr. Anand holds a Ph.D. in education from University of Maryland, College Park; an MS in applied linguistics from Georgetown University, Washington D.C. and an MA in English literature from Punjab University, India.

Donna Christian is a senior fellow at the Center for Applied Linguistics in Washington, DC where she previously served as a researcher and then president (1994-2010). She is a sociolinguist who has devoted her career to addressing issues of language and dialect diversity in education and society. For over 40 years, she has been involved in research, professional development for educators, policy analysis, and technical assistance related to these matters, especially focused on dialects and dual language education. She co-directed a multi-year study of two-way immersion education for the Center for Research on Education, Diversity and Excellence. Dr. Christian also taught linguistics in Poland as a Fulbright Senior Lecturer for two years. She served on the National Research Council Committee on Developing a Research Agenda on the Education of Limited-English-Proficient and Bilingual Students (report published in 1997), was a reviewer for the National Academies Consensus Study Report on Promoting the Educational Success of Children and Youth Learning English, and oversaw the review of the report on English Learners in STEM Subjects. Dr. Christian earned both her master's and Ph.D. degrees in linguistics from Georgetown University.

Kenji Hakuta is the Lee L. Jacks Professor, *emeritus*, at the Stanford University Graduate School of Education. He received his Ph.D. in Experimental Psychology from Harvard University in 1979, has held faculty positions at Yale University and the University of California at Santa Cruz, and served as the Founding Dean of the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Arts at the University of California, Merced. He has published in the areas of psycholinguistics, bilingualism, language shift, the acquisition of English in immigrant students, and education policy. He has served on the boards of the Center for Applied Linguistics, the Spencer Foundation and the Educational Testing Service, and currently serves on the board of the William T. Grant Foundation, Multicultural Education and Training Advocates (META), Gooru Learning, and the Great Basin National Park Foundation. For 8 years, he chaired the National

Educational Research Policy and Priorities Board (predecessor of the IES Board) of the U. S. Department of Education. He is an elected Fellow of the National Academy of Education, the American Educational Research Association, the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Feliza I. Ortiz-Licon, Ed.D., the proud daughter of Mexican immigrant parents, has invested nearly twenty-five years in the field of education working in various capacities, but primarily focused on issues of diversity, access, and equity, specifically as it relates to Latino students and English learners.

A committed champion of equitable education and opportunities for all students, Dr. Ortiz-Licon currently serves as Chief Policy and Advocacy Officer at Latinos for Education. In this role, Dr. Ortiz-Licon leads the organization's policymaking and advocacy efforts to create equitable, educational opportunities for Latino students. This current position truly enhances her passion in reshaping the narrative and opportunities afforded to Latinos as well as advancing Latino leadership and proposing responsive policy recommendations that improve educational outcomes. Prior to joining Latinos for Education, Dr. Ortiz-Licon served a 5-year term on the CA State Board of Education serving 6.2 million students

Sylvia Yee is a leader whose life's work has been to advance equity and opportunity for children and families. She has helped launch innovative partnerships to drive systemic change in low-income San Francisco Bay Area communities and has seeded education reform efforts in early childhood and community colleges. She helped spark the rise of family support services and after-school programs and played a leading role in the creation of the San Francisco Beacon Initiative. As Vice President of Programs at the Evelyn and Walter Haas, Jr. Fund, she oversaw the strategy development of innovative approaches to nonprofit leadership and neighborhood revitalization and initiated bold national work to secure equal rights for immigrants and gays and lesbians.

Over the decades, Dr. Yee has served as board chair of numerous national and local nonprofit organizations, including Asian American/Pacific Islanders in Philanthropy, the Foundation Consortium, Family Support America, and the Bernal Heights Community Foundation. She chaired board committees as a trustee of BoardSource, Teaching Channel, and Coaching Corps. She currently is vice-chair of SPARK*SF Public Schools, a supporting organization of the San Francisco school district.

Dr. Yee earned her Ph.D. in education administration and policy from Stanford University and a master's degree in teaching at Reed College. She taught and administered programs at the elementary, secondary and university levels both in the U.S. and in the People's Republic of China. Her publications include *Careers in the Classroom* and *Got Me a Story to Tell: Five Children Tell About Their Lives*.

Gabriela Uro is the Director for English Language Learner Policy and Research for the Council of the Great City Schools, where she is responsible for all matters pertaining to English Language Learners (ELLs). As part of the legislative team, she works on legislative matters

relevant to ELLs, both with Capitol Hill and the Administration. She is the lead for Strategic Support Teams reviewing ELL programs in Council districts, and providing technical assistance, as needed. She is the Council's lead for ELL issues related to the implementation of the Common Core or new state standards in member districts.

Ms. Uro has led or co-authored a number of publications including A Framework for Raising Expectations and Instructional Rigor for English Language Learners, the comprehensive report on English Language Learners in America's Great City Schools, and Succeeding with English Language Learners--an influential study that revealed systemic factors contributing to improving ELL achievement in large urban districts. She oversees several grant-funded projects focused on improving instructional rigor for ELLs, totaling close to \$1.5 million.

Prior to joining the Council in 1997, Ms. Uro served as the Policy Advisor to the Assistant Secretary of Elementary and Secondary Education and the Director of the Office of Bilingual Education (now English Acquisition) in the U.S. Department of Education and was part of the Department's Team for the 1994 ESEA Reauthorization. She joined the Clinton Administration in 1994 and prior to working at the federal level was an education budget analyst for the California State Legislature Budget Committee and the Chancellor of the University of California, Los Angeles. Ms. Uro received her M.P.A. from Columbia University with a specialization in Education Policy and her B.A. degree from the University of California, Irvine (magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa). She has extensive experience living abroad in Mexico, Spain, Italy and Portugal.