



Reclaiming the Promise of Public Education: *Conversation Series*

Educating English Language Learners in an Age of Anti-Immigrant Scapegoating

June 8, 2016

Noon to 2 p.m.

Steve Choi

Steve Choi, Esq. is the Executive Director of the New York Immigration Coalition, an umbrella advocacy and policy coalition of nearly 200 member groups representing New York State's immigrant communities. From 2009 to 2013, Mr. Choi was the Executive Director of the MinKwon Center for Community Action, which organizes, advocates for, educates and serves Korean and Asian community members in New York. Prior to that, Mr. Choi was a Staff Attorney and the founding Director of the Korean Workers Project at the Asian American Legal Defense & Education Fund, the only project on the East Coast focused on providing free legal services to low-wage Korean immigrants. Choi received a J.D. from Harvard Law School, a M.A. from the University of Hawai'i, and a B.A. from Stanford University in History with Honors.

Sponsored by the Albert Shanker Institute and the American Federation of Teachers, this conversation series is designed to engender lively and informative discussions on important educational issues. We deliberately invite speakers with diverse perspectives, including views other than those of the Albert Shanker Institute and the AFT. What is important is that these participants are committed to genuine engagement with each other.

Ester de Jong

Ester J. de Jong is Professor in ESOL/Bilingual Education, and the Director of the School of Teaching and Learning in the College of Education, University of Florida. She teaches courses in ESOL/bilingual education and in curriculum, methods, and assessment for English speakers of other languages. Prior to academia, she worked for the K-12 public schools in Massachusetts as the Assistant Director for Bilingual Education and ESL programs. Her research focuses on two-way bilingual education, language-in-education policy, and mainstream teacher preparation for bilingual students. Her book “Foundations for Multilingualism in Education: From Principles to Practice” (Caslon Publishing, 2011) addresses policies and practices of responding to increasing linguistic diversities in schools. She is currently co-PI for a Center of Excellence in Elementary Teacher Preparation grant. She was recently elected President-Elect for the TESOL International Association.

Joe Luft

As Executive Director, Joe is responsible for growing and strengthening Internationals Network’s proven approach to providing outstanding educational opportunities for English language learners. Joe focuses on organizational strategy, core values, partnerships, policy and advocacy, and fundraising. Previously, Luft served as Deputy Director of Internationals Network for Public Schools. Joe is the founding Principal of the Flushing International High School in New York City. He was also a teacher at the Brooklyn International High School and completed an administrative residency at LaGuardia Community College. Joe began his teaching career in the Washington, DC Public Schools and, prior to teaching, worked at the Aspira Association in Washington, DC. Luft holds a B.A. in History and Hispanic Studies from Connecticut College and a M.A. in ESL/Secondary Education from The George Washington University in Washington DC. He is a graduate of the New Leaders for New Schools urban principal preparation program.

Moderator: **Giselle Lundy-Ponce**

Giselle Lundy-Ponce has been working in the field of PreK-12 education policy, legislation and advocacy for the last twenty-three years. Under the Office of the Executive Vice-President, she works on issues affecting all member constituencies of the American Federation of Teachers in addition to leading the AFT’s work on English language learners and Latino student achievement. She holds a BA in political science from Reed College in Portland, Oregon, and an MA in education policy and evaluation from Stanford University.