



Reclaiming the Promise of Public Education: *Conversation Series*

In an Age of Scapegoating, Making School A Safe and Nurturing Place for Youth

May 10, 2017 | Noon to 2 p.m.

Eliza Byard

Eliza Byard is the Executive Director of GLSEN, an organization recognized worldwide as an innovative champion of LGBTQ issues in education. Founded in 1990, GLSEN leads programs, advocacy, and strategic communications initiatives that have produced measurable improvements in the lives of LGBTQ students, and contributed to the growing public presence and acceptance of LGBTQ people in the United States. As an expert on education, youth development, and LGBTQ issues, Byard is a frequent keynote speaker and media spokesperson, and serves on numerous boards and commissions.

Mary Cathryn Ricker

Mary Cathryn Ricker was elected the executive vice president of the American Federation of Teachers in 2014. Ricker served as president of the Saint Paul Federation of Teachers since 2005, as an AFT vice president since 2012, and a member of the AFT K-12 Teachers program and policy council since 2006. As president of the Saint Paul Federation of Teachers, Ricker championed innovative, teacher-built solutions that improve teaching and learning as well as strengthen public education. These include the union's alternative teacher recruitment and licensure program, CareerTeacher; a full-spectrum peer assistance and review program; site-based school redesign and governance; a parent-teacher home visit project; comprehensive by-teachers/for-teachers professional development, including an annual SPFT professional conference; and meaningful community engagement in the union's work. Ricker is also a National Board Certified middle school English teacher and has taught in classrooms in St. Cloud and Saint Paul; Camas, Wash.; and Seoul, South Korea. Ricker also serves on the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards board of directors. Her teaching and leadership skills have been recognized with a number of other honors, including receiving the Education Minnesota Peterson-Schaubach Outstanding Leadership Award, qualifying as a semifinalist for the NEA Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence, and serving as a contributor in the Annenberg Foundation's professional development series "Write in the Middle."

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.

Ricker also serves on the Education Minnesota governing board and served as a member of the boards of Take Action Minnesota, the Saint Paul Regional Labor Federation, the Saint Paul Public Schools Foundation and the Twin Cities Generation Next. In 2012, Ricker was selected to co-chair the Minnesota Department of Education Teacher Evaluation Work Group, and she served on the department's Education Finance Working Group since 2011. Ricker serves on a number of national boards including: United Way USA, National Democratic Institute for International Affairs, Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation, AFL-CIO Department for Professional Employees and the Albert Shanker Institute.

Yolanda Rondon

Yolanda Rondon is a Staff Attorney for the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC), where she works on legal cases and policy issues related to surveillance, racial profiling, hate crimes, employment discrimination and immigration. Prior to her position at ADC, Rondon was a law clerk at the Legal Aid Society of Cleveland and for Chief Administrative Judge Charetta Harrington at the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in Cleveland, Ohio. During law school, Rondon also served as a law clerk in Israel, working on cases involving Eritrean and Ethiopian refugees. Rondon earned her Juris Doctor from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in 2013, with legal concentrations in individual rights and social reform, and international humanitarian law. Rondon earned her Bachelor of Arts in Political Science at the SUNY Buffalo State College in 2010.

Giancarlo Tello

Giancarlo Tello is a Peruvian undocumented student currently pursuing his Master's in Higher Education at Rowan University. He earned his associate's degree from Bergen Community College in Network Administration and a bachelor's degree from Rutgers University in Political Science. He started his involvement in the Immigrant Rights movement in 2010 with the New Jersey Dream Act Coalition where he organized and advocated for undocumented youth. In 2014 he was the campaign manager for the NJ Dream Act campaign which granted In-State Tuition for undocumented students in NJ. Tello is the recipient numerous awards, including the ACLU-NJ Torchbearer award, the NJTESOL/NJBE Advocacy award, TUMI USA Peruvian Student Award. He is the co-author of "The Country I Call Home: Stories of Growing Up a Citizen in Every Way but One," and the Rutgers University Newark Strategic Plan on Leveraging Diversity. He is co-founder of the undocuRutgers college model. In 2015 he was appointed by the NJ Assembly Speaker to the College Affordability Study Commission that produced a report to the Governor and Legislature with findings and recommendations to make college more affordable.

Moderator: Louis Malfaro

Louis Malfaro is president of AFT Texas. He served as president of Education Austin from 1999-2010, and also served as president of the Austin Federation of Teachers, from 1992-1999. Malfaro began working as a bilingual elementary school teacher in 1987. He has served as president of the Austin Central Labor Council (2003-2007) and is an AFT vice president, a member of the AFT Teachers program and policy council and a member of the AFT organizing committee.

Next Conversation: "School integration by Race and Class: A Movement Reborn?"

Wednesday, June 7, 2017 | noon to 2:00 p.m.

555 New Jersey Ave. N.W. Washington, DC 20001

Registration: www.shankerinstitute.org/event/school-integration-movement-reborn