



New York State Education Department
 Office of Bilingual Education & Foreign Language Studies
B/Q Bilingual/ESL Education Technical Assistance Center
at Long Island University

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BETAC@LIU
B-U-L-L-E-T-I-N
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B/Q BETAC@LIU-SED OBE&FLS-B/Q BETAC@LIU-SED OBE&FLS-B/Q BETA

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Dear Colleagues,

We hope that our readers enjoyed a wonderful new year and are ready for the second half of the regular school year. In January, the NYC BETAC Network was extremely proud to have sponsored two professional development presentations by Jim Cummins, renowned author and researcher, who shared important insights into the education of ELLs.

We'd like to draw your attention to a *New York Times* article cited below—"In School for the First Time, Teenage Immigrants Struggle." This informative article describes the tremendous challenge of educating the city's ELL Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE) who comprise about 10% of the total ELL population. According to the article, "New York is one of the only states to identify these difficult cases..." Despite any shortcomings, we should take pride in our efforts, and sometimes struggles, to meet their particular educational needs effectively.

Yours truly,
Virginia Jama
Director

*B/Q BETAC is part of a statewide BETAC network funded by the NYSED-OBE & FLS. B/Q BETAC is administered by LIU/Brooklyn Campus, School of Education, located at 9 Hanover Place, 3rd Floor, Brooklyn, NY 11201-5882.

 **SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS** 

Please disseminate this **BULLETIN** to all Brooklyn/Queens Elementary, Middle and High Schools; particularly bilingual, ESL, and foreign language teachers.

**B/Q BETAC
DELIVERY of SERVICES**
▼

**PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT/
TECHNICAL
ASSISTANCE**
▼

VISIT OUR WEBSITE

B/Q BETAC

 **WEBSITE** 

Hosted by Long Island University-Bklyn.
www.brooklyn.liu.edu/education/betac

- ✓ *Events*
- ✓ *Resources*
- ✓ *Initiatives*
- ✓ *Links*

For your reference, the resources section includes previous editions of our monthly BULLETINS as well as various special reports and articles.

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March 12-15, 2009
**New York State
Association for
Bilingual Education
32nd Annual Conference**
NYSABE
***“Bilingual Education:
Honoring Our Heritage
for a Better Tomorrow”***
**Westchester Marriott
Tarrytown, New York**
www.nysabe.org

NABE

National Association for
Bilingual Education

38th Annual Conference
Bilingual Education: Strengthening
America Through a
Multilingual Society
February 18-21, 2009
Austin, Texas
www.nabe.org

B/Q BETAC is available to host and participate in school, district and SSO professional development or technical assistance meetings/conferences. Contact us for further information.

INSTRUCTIONAL MATERIALS/RESOURCES

NWP NATIONAL WRITING PROJECT

Our Book



**Nuestro Libro
¡Hecho Por Nosotros!**

A new hands-on book for preschoolers provides parents and caregivers with a resource in English and Spanish that engages young children in reading and writing to support their early literacy development.

To see if this book is appropriate for your bilingual program, visit:

www.nwp.org/cs/public/print/resource/2567

PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES/MATERIALS

Center for Applied Linguistics (CAL) Exemplary Programs for Newcomer ELLs at the Secondary Level*

CAL is conducting a survey of Middle and High School Newcomer Programs. If you have such a program, check the website below for more information about the survey and CAL's project related to meeting the educational needs of "newcomer students who lack English proficiency and have gaps in their educational backgrounds." This issue relates to ELLs whom we refer to as "Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE)."

Also, for purchase, CAL offers the following resource publications:
> **Creating Access: Language and Academic Programs for Secondary Newcomers**
> **Secondary School Newcomer Programs in the United States.**

www.cal.org/projects

*This project is funded by The Carnegie Corporation of New York, Deborah Short, Project Director.

Opportunities at LIU

Spring Open House
Masters in School Counseling
Masters in Mental Health
Counseling
Masters in School Psychology
Educational Leadership Program

March 26, 2009
April 15, 2009

LIU School of Education – Brooklyn
Campus
Pratt Building – 2nd Floor
4:30-7:30pm

For more information, contact Ms.
Brown at 718-488-1380 or e-mail
jolli.brown@liu.edu.

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Long Island University
and
NYSED Intensive Teacher Institute
Offer

**ONLINE Bilingual Extension
Opportunity**

**New State Approved Programs
In Bilingual General and Special
Education
Generous Tuition Support
Ongoing Enrollment**

**For eligible NYS certified teachers
currently working in bilingual
general education or bilingual
special education classrooms,
who do not yet hold the NYS
bilingual extension.**

**For program information, contact
Prof. Lemberger at
onlinebilingual@brooklyn.liu.edu.**

**Scholarships require school
administrator approval and a two-
year teaching commitment.**



From *The New York Times*
January 25, 2009

In School for the First Time, Teenage Immigrants Struggle

The above cited article by Jennifer Medina reported that a new public school in the Bronx, Ellis Prep Academy, has been opened to serve SIFE students. We highly recommend that you look up this fascinating article on the NY Times website.

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From *The New York Times*
January 8, 2009

Advanced Placement Italian Test to End

An article by Tamar Lewin reported that the College Board will drop its Advanced Placement Italian exam at the end of this academic year, just four years after it began offering it.

Last April, the College Board announced plans to end four Advanced Placement exams that were not attracting enough students — Italian, Latin literature, French literature and computer science AB — after May 2009. But it held out hope of keeping the Italian program alive for another year if supporters could raise \$1.5 million.

The College Board said in a letter to educators in September that the costs of maintaining such small programs were simply too high.

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ELL News Blast

Weekly Headlines from
ColorinColorado.org

Opinion: Children Often Caught in Translating Nightmares

The Tennessean

January 22, 2009

Gregory Plemmons, M.D., medical director for the outpatient center and assistant professor of general pediatrics at Monroe Carell Jr. Children's Hospital, writes in this opinion column about Nashville's proposed English-only amendment, "Using children as translators is common practice in many immigrant-rich states, yet children often lack the vocabulary and the psychological and emotional maturity required to communicate health information. The cost of providing translation services is a burden with no easy short-term solutions, but the English-only initiative will do nothing to address this."

NOTE: Dr. Plemmons' cautionary note about using children as interpreters certainly applies in NYC and probably beyond with regard to health information. Also, FYI, in January, voters in Nashville, Tennessee rejected a proposal to make English the city's official language and largely to prevent government workers from communicating in other languages.

**Educational &
Cultural
Connections**

Just a short trip to the Bronx from Brooklyn and Queens which enroll the largest numbers of Chinese and Russian-speaking ELLs...

Lehman Center for the
Performing Arts

▶ The National Acrobats of
China

Sunday, March 8, 2009 – 4 pm

▶ Russian National Ballet
Theatre

Cinderella

Sunday, March 22, 2009 – 4pm

LEHMAN CENTER – 250 Bedford Park
Blvd. West, Bronx, N.Y.

For information/tickets:

BOX OFFICE 718-960-8833

TICKETS ONLINE

www.lehmancenter.org

**If you would like to
post your
announcements,
activities/events, or
submit articles, please
send the information to
dayana.quinones@liu.edu
by the end of every
month.**



PARENT/FAMILY PARTNERSHIPS



As a service, the B/Q BETAC may announce materials/resources etc, including those that are commercially available. Providing such information is not intended as an endorsement of any products/services. You are encouraged to review such materials for quality and their appropriateness in meeting your particular needs.



Museum of Modern Art
MoMA

Family Arts and Literacy

To facilitate English language development, this program explores MoMA's collection while focusing on reading, writing, and conversation skills. Workshops can also be tailored to meet the interests of your particular group. For information, visit:

www.moma.org/education/community

NOTE: This is only one program available from one of the city's rich collection of cultural institutions which can be tapped for ELLs and their families.



From the FIELD...



Please keep us informed about ELL and FLS "happenings" in schools and from SSOs!!

Send information to the B/Q BETAC and we'll include it in future BULLETINS.

Jim Cummins Speaks at LIU

On January 22, 2009, Dr. Jim Cummins came to the Kumble Theater of the Performing Arts at Long Island University to speak on "The Challenge of Learning Academic Language." In this much-anticipated appearance, Dr. Cummins, an author and a professor at the Ontario, Canada, Institute of Studies, stressed the importance of literacy engagement and identity affirmation to the 200-plus teachers and administrators who came to meet him. Dr. Cummins described how English language learner students' first language may be used while setting students on a "catch up trajectory" and moving them towards interactive, critical learning.

The event, co-sponsored by the BETAC at the LIU School of Education and

PARENT INVOLVEMENT

SCHOOLS SHOULD PLAN CONTINUOUSLY FOR THIS SCHOOL YEAR-

***PARENT ORIENTATIONS**

[Mandated under CR PART 154]

***OPEN SCHOOL WEEK**

***PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES**

***PARENT**

EDUCATION/DEVELOPMENT

NOTE: When available, see the NYCDOE schedule for Open School Week and P-T Conferences.

Pearson-Longman Amazing Minds division, attracted participants from New York City, Albany and Long Island.



Dr. Cummins (Center) Meets Brooklyn and Queens Educators



LIU Faculty & Friends Join Dr. Cummins (Center) for Lunch



Winners of a raffle sponsored by Pearson Longman at Long Island University with Dr. Cummins and Pearson Longman Representatives

2009 NYC BETAC Network Teachers Institute

On Friday, January 23rd, 2009, the NYC BETAC Network, in collaboration with Pearson Longman, hosted the 2009 Teachers Institute at Fordham's University School of Law at Lincoln Center. The event, which was attended by over one hundred and fifty educators and administrators from the NYC public schools, featured Dr. Jim Cummins as the guest speaker. Other speakers included Ira Schwartz and Dr. Pedro Ruiz.



Participants during the Teachers Institute at Fordham University School of Law on January 23rd, 2009.



Winners of a raffle sponsored by Pearson Longman at Fordham University with Dr. Cummins and BETAC and Pearson Longman Representatives

FACTS & FIGURES:

“TRIVIA QUIZ”

Which of the following states is NOT among the five states with the largest number of ELLs?

- A. California
- B. Florida
- C. New York
- D. Ohio
- E. Texas

Source: *The Biennial Report to Congress on the Implementation of the Title III State Formula Grant Program, School Years 2004-2006*, U.S. Department of Education.

DID YOU KNOW...?

Approximately **5,074,572** LEP students attended PK-12 schools in the United States, an increase of 57.2% over the previous 10-year period and approximately **10.3%** of the nation's total school enrollment.

Sources: 2005-06 Consolidated State Performance Reports and the National Center for Education Statistics Common Core of Data [National Clearinghouse for English Language Acquisition].

- ♦♦
- **What percentage of NYC's total school enrollment is classified as ELL?**
14.1%
- **Which borough has the largest number of ELLs?**
Queens (followed by Brooklyn)

Calendar of Events

1 2008-2009 1

*Activities/events without specific dates are “to be confirmed/announced”

2009

► FEBRUARY

>18-21

NABE Annual Conference

► MARCH

>12-15

NYSABE Annual Conference

>26-28

TESOL Convention

► APRIL

>4-6

PR/HYLI

>20 (to 5/29)

EL SOL

>20 (to 5/15)

NYSESLAT (Speaking)

► MAY

>4-15

NYSESLAT (W/L)

>26

Chinese Reading Test

>27

ELE Spanish Rdg. Test

>29

NYS Spanish Spelling Bee

► JUNE

Please remember that our Calendar of Events is subject to change. Thank you.

♦Activities/events sponsored by the NYSED's OBE/FLS *BETAC Network* and the NYCDOE Office of English Language Learners (OELL) will be announced throughout the school year.

♦See the DAA 2008-09
Citywide/Statewide Assessment Calendar
for all testing dates

For information about resources for
particular cultural/linguistic groups, be
sure to contact our language-specific
Asian, Haitian and Spanish BETACs.

“TRIVIA QUIZ” ANSWER

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Ohio is not among the five states with
the largest number of ELLs. The top 5
states, in rank order, are: California,
Texas, Florida, New York, Illinois.