



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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**Brooklyn/Queens**  
**BETAC@LIU**

**B-U-L-L-E-T-I-N**

**March 2009**

**B/Q BETAC@LIU-SED OBE&FLS-B/Q BETAC@LIU-SED OBE&FLS-B/Q BETA**

*Created & Designed by: John Acompore. Edited by: B/Q BETAC Staff*

**Dear Colleagues,**

We encourage you to attend the March 12-15<sup>th</sup> New York State for Bilingual Education (NYSABE) conference in Tarrytown by registering onsite. Hopefully we'll see some of our friends and constituents at this important conference.

**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, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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**



**VISIT OUR WEBSITE**



**B/Q BETAC**



**WEBSITE** 

Hosted by Long Island University-Bklyn.  
[www.brooklyn.liu.edu/education/betac](http://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.



**LIU**  **Brooklyn Campus**

## **OPPORTUNITIES AT LIU**

### **OPEN HOUSES**

- ▶ Paraprofessionals

**March 19, 2009**

**4-6 p.m.**

**School of Education, Pratt**

**Bldg. 2<sup>nd</sup> floor**

- ▶ Masters in School Counseling, School Psychology, Educational Leadership

**March 26, 2009 and**

**April 15**

**4:30-7p.m.**

For information re these recruitment OPEN HOUSES and related LIU programs, please call: **Ms. Jolli Brown** (718) 488-1380

Long Island University / Brooklyn Campus  
School Of Education

## School Talk

Hear  
(Lorraine) Monroe's  
Doctrine:  
**“Nothing Is  
Impossible”**

In 1991, Dr. Lorraine Monroe founded the Frederick Douglass Academy, a public school in Harlem, in the belief that caring instructors, a disciplined but creative environment, and a refusal to accept mediocrity could transform the lives of inner-city kids. Today the Academy is one of the finest schools of its kind in the country, sending graduates to leading colleges and universities. Monroe succeeded in her experiment by developing a unique leadership method through decades as a teacher and principal in some of America's toughest schools, which she calls the "Monroe Doctrine."

**Thursday / March 26, 2009**

**4:45 PM**

**Zeckendorf Health Sciences  
Center #121  
Long Island University /  
Brooklyn Campus**

For more information contact Dr. Evelyn  
Castro, Associate Dean School Of  
Education  
Evelyn.Castro@LIU.edu

This *School Talk* Is Co-Sponsored By:  
-Brooklyn Queens Regional Bilingual/ESL  
Education Technical Assistance Center  
(BETAC) at L.I.U.  
-Council Of School Supervisors &  
Administrators  
-Haitian Bilingual and ESL Technical  
Assistance Center (HABETAC) at Brooklyn  
College  
-LIU Teacher Resource Center

**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](mailto:onlinebilingual@brooklyn.liu.edu)**

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

If you would like  
your postings in our  
monthly Bulletins,  
please e-mail the  
information to  
[dayana.quinones@liu.edu](mailto:dayana.quinones@liu.edu)  
by the first week of  
every month.

**PROFESSIONAL  
DEVELOPMENT/  
TECHNICAL  
ASSISTANCE**



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**



**March 12-15, 2009**

**New York State  
Association for  
Bilingual Education  
32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference**

**NYSABE**

*“Bilingual Education:  
Honoring Our Heritage  
for a Better Tomorrow”*

**Westchester Marriott  
Tarrytown, New York**

[www.nysabe.org](http://www.nysabe.org)



**Colorín Colorado  
Books for Kids**

**Celebrate Reading in  
Two Languages**

**A Bilingual Booklist**

Some of the books on this list are bilingual, meaning that you will find both English and Spanish within the same book. Other titles are originally in English, and have a Spanish translation available. The links to Amazon.com provide more information about each book.

To see if any of these books can be useful for ESL and/or Spanish bilingual programs, visit:

[www.colorincolorado.org](http://www.colorincolorado.org)

[Click: Books & Authors;  
Books for Kids; Celebrate Reading  
in Two Languages]



**Materials Exhibit**

For those attending the NYSABE Conference, be sure to visit the materials exhibit in order to identify any appropriate/useful ESL and/or native language instructional materials for ELLs.

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**TESOL Convention  
Denver 2009**

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**Teachers of English to Speakers of  
Other Languages, Inc.  
43<sup>rd</sup> Annual TESOL  
Convention and Exhibits**

**“Uncharted Mountains,  
Forging New Pathways”  
March 26-28, 2009  
Denver, CO**

For convention information, visit:

[www.tesol.org](http://www.tesol.org)

## PROFESSIONAL RESOURCES/MATERIALS



Speaking of the **NYSABE** Conference and **TESOL** Convention (see above), these are two important professional associations/resources for educators of ELLs. For information about membership, visit:

- ♦ [www.nysabe.org](http://www.nysabe.org)
- ♦ [www.tesol.org](http://www.tesol.org)



### Encouraging Academic Success for English Language Learners Getting ELLs on the Path to College

“For ELLs, the challenges of going to and applying to college can be overwhelming. ELL teachers can play an important role, however, by helping students prepare for and navigate the application process. This new section features a number of articles with great ideas for ways that ELL educators can support their students as they consider future plans.”

For this new section of the Colorin Colorado website, visit:

[www.colorincolorado.org](http://www.colorincolorado.org)

NOTE: Please provide this website to staff responsible for college admissions counseling.



### English-only rise in HS graduation rates

High School graduation rates have increased under Mayor Bloomberg – except for students not fluent in English. While the general graduation rate climbed to 52.2% in 2007 from 46.5% in 2005, the rate for students learning English (called English language learners, or ELLs) dropped from 28.5% to 23.5% over the same period.

Advocates say some city efforts that have improved achievement in general missed the mark when it comes to English language learners. “We support high standards,” said Deycy Avita, education advocacy coordinator at the New York Immigration Coalition, “but what we need is the increased resources and strategies to make sure they can meet the higher standards.” ELLs made up more than a quarter of the student body at two high schools that were closed. Two years ago, advocates successfully fought for increased funding for these students, but say more is needed. Among their suggestions are a longer school day, reduced class size and access to full-day pre-K and kindergarten. They warn that the coming change in graduation standards, requiring all students to pass all five Regents exams, will only make things worse. Currently, only about 10% of English language learners meet that standard. But there are programs that work, the advocates say. **Flushing International High School** in Queens, where students speak 18 languages, boasts a 2% dropout rate and a 92% college attendance rate. **Bronx International High School**, which has 40 languages spoken in its hallways, has

a similar record. An Education Department spokeswoman acknowledged that four-year graduation rates remain a concern, but said overall academic performance had improved. Progress is easier when students are younger, say experts and by some measures, there has been improvement. The percentage of English language learners in the third through eighth grades able to read English at grade level jumped to 22.6% in 2008 from 11% in 2006, according to state tests. Those who were proficient in math grew to 59% from 36% over the same period. "These are problems that have been accruing for some time," said Maria Torres-Guzman, professor of bilingual studies at Columbia University's Teachers College. "It's too easy to ignore, because it's a population that's not going to make a lot of noise in the political world."

Source: Daily News, 2/22/09



## PARENT-TEACHER CONFERENCES

Schools are encouraged to make adequate provisions for **translation and interpretation services** for the upcoming parent-teacher conferences:

Evening/ Afternoon

>Elementary: March 18/19

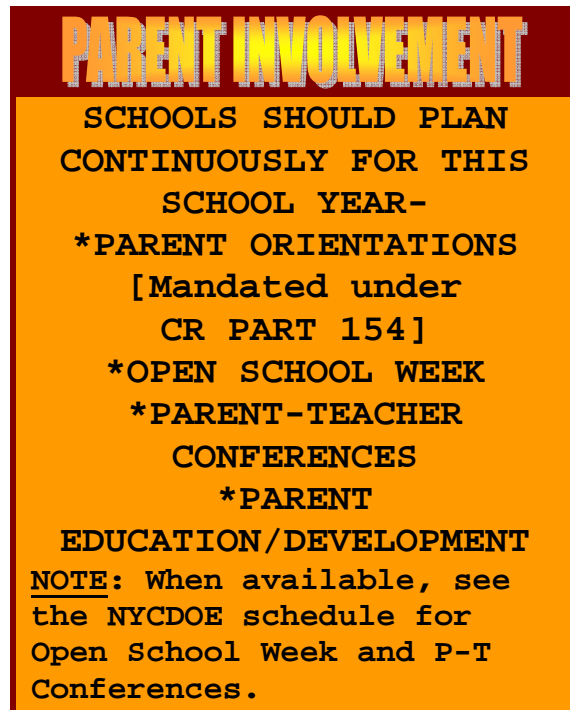
>HS: March 26/27

>District 75: March 30/31



Among the issues impacting on ELL high school graduation rates is the enrollment of **ELL Students with Interrupted Formal Education (SIFE)**, especially those who enter our schools in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade and above and who, therefore, face the "ticking clock" to achieve sufficient English proficiency

and academic preparation to meet graduation standards. After grades K-2, the highest ELL enrollments are in the 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades. The NYCDOE also describes these grades as "common entry points for new ELLs." Of "new SIFE" (e.g. who entered our schools in 2007-08), 38.3% entered in grades 9 and 10. It is imperative, therefore, that we continue efforts to meet the unique educational needs of ELL SIFE who enter our schools in the upper grades.



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.

**Puerto Rican Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute – The 2009 Angelo Del Toro Scholarship Essay Review Session**

Twenty educators from around NY State met at the B/Q BETAC on March 9, 2009, to rate essays from scholarship applicants from the Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute (HYLI.) We thank all of these dedicated persons who spent a full day working with over 80 student papers in English and Spanish. Included here are some of the pictures of the committee hard at work.



Lily Cerat from the Haitian Languages BETAC and Irene Pompetti-Szul from the Spanish BETAC



Whitney Bates from Bard High School Early College



Linda Weber, PRHYLI State Coordinator, Lillian Garcia from the Bronx BETAC and Marta Cruz from the BQ BETAC



**P.S. 19 Q**

***Data show the school has done a good job improving test scores of English-language learners, who make up more than half the student population\****

Public School 19 in Corona Queens has about 2000 students half of whom are ELLs. This compares with the citywide average of 14% of all students classified as ELLs. According to a recent Daily News article, PS 19 has about 800 students over capacity and is trying to remedy this problem. Despite this overcrowding and high percentage of ELLs, the school has been acknowledged for its “good job” in improving ELL performance.

\*Article-”Parents: Fill in the blanks!” Daily News, 2/4/09

***The Brooklyn/Queens BETAC at the National Association of Bilingual Education in Austin, Texas***

On February 19, 2009, Virginia Jama of the LIU BETAC along with Diane Howitt of the Lower Hudson Valley

BETAC presented a descriptive report, "Making Space for Students with Interrupted Education," in Austin, Texas, at the conference of the National Association of Bilingual Education. Over 80 teachers from around the United States attended the presentation and shared their own experiences in working with newcomer students with limited prior schooling. Ms. Jama also visited Lanier High School in Austin to observe teachers who used methods that encouraged group work and interaction with older students who needed to pass assessments in order to graduate.

#### *Visit to PS 94 in Brooklyn*

Virginia Jama, the Director of the BETAC at Long Island University's School of Education, visited PS 94 in Sunset Park Brooklyn on January 27, 2009 and presented an after-school workshop, "Making Maximum Use of the New York State ESL Standards" for twelve teachers from various elementary grades. Ms. Cynthia Felix of the Community Learning Support Organization of the Department of Education facilitated.

#### *Preparation for the Puerto Rican/Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute (PR/HYLI)*

In preparation for the annual Hispanic Youth Leadership Institute (HYLI) in Albany, NY, Marta Cruz, Resource Specialist at the BETAC, met with 80 New York City high school students at the Bridges Secondary School in Manhattan on February 7, 2009, to introduce training sessions on legislative bills, public speaking and essay writing. The HYLI youth conference affords outstanding students of Hispanic descent the opportunity to meet other juniors and seniors from around the state and to earn one of twelve college scholarships.

**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.**

## **SPECIAL ACTIVITIES & EVENTS**



**Winning essay: \$500  
Runner-up essay: \$250  
DEADLINE: March 31,  
2009**

#### **NYC CHINESE AMERICAN ESSAY COMPETITION**

High School students are invited to write an autobiographical essay about their experience of growing up as a Chinese American in New York City.

For information/application, visit:

[http://sites.google.com/site/  
chinesenyc](http://sites.google.com/site/chinesenyc)



**Special activities and events for  
the 2008-09 school year will be  
announced in our monthly  
BULLETINS.**

If you would like your postings in our monthly Bulletins, please e-mail the information to [dayana.quinones@liu.edu](mailto:dayana.quinones@liu.edu) by the first week of every month.

## Calendar of Events

1 2008-2009 1

\*Activities/events without specific dates are "to be confirmed/announced"

### 2009

## FACTS & FIGURES:

📖 "TRIVIA QUIZ" 📖

Which of the following in part describes Garifuna?

- A. Descendants of African slaves, Carib and Arawak Indians.
- B. A small island nation in the western Pacific.
- C. A tribe in the mountainous regions of Brazil.
- D. One of the official languages spoken in Kenya.

■ ■

The following NYC statistics appeared in the above article "IN THE NEWS"—**English-only rise in HS graduation rates.**

**A FAILURE TO COMMUNICATE**  
**148,400** number of English language learners in city public schools (ELLs)  
**14%** percentage of total student population  
**56%** percentage of ELLs born in the U.S.  
**28.5%** 2005 ELL grad rate  
**23.5%** 2007 ELL grad rate  
 Source: NYCDOE

### ▶ MARCH

>12-15

NYSABE Annual Conference

>26-28

TESOL Convention

### ▶ APRIL

>4-6

PR/HYLI

>20 (to 5/29)

EL SOL (Assessment)

>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.*

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♦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

### A

The **Garifuna** are the descendents of African slaves, Carib and Arawak Indians. There are sizable Garifuna settlements in Belize, Honduras, Guatemala and Nicaragua. Also, Garifuna is a distinct language primarily derived from Arawak and Carib with English, French and Spanish to a lesser degree. In NYC, there are ELLs whose home language is Garifuna, some of whom, also speak Spanish. Among other websites, visit the following site for more information about the Garifuna community:

[www.garifuna.com](http://www.garifuna.com)