



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

September 13, 2013

Dear Colleagues:

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Dr. Libia (Libi) Gil as Assistant Deputy Secretary and Director of the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA).

Dr. Gil brings to OELA and the Department a wealth of experiences in the field of education—and in particular, English learner education. Her long term commitment, expertise and track record of producing outstanding results for children uniquely qualify her not only to head OELA but to be a leader in strategy, policy and program development across the agency. Immediately prior to her appointment she was Vice President for Practice for *Collaborative for Academic, Social and Emotional Learning* in Chicago—a background which will help us elevate and enhance the Department's work in this area.

Dr. Gil's skills and experience will serve OELA well in managing its programs and initiatives and in advancing the Department's agenda for English learner achievement.

Additional Background

Dr. Gil began her career as a teacher in the Los Angeles Unified School District, and after that became a bilingual teacher in the ABC Unified School District in California. Later, in that same district, she served as bilingual /ESL coordinator, desegregation officer designing bilingual (Spanish, Korean and Chinese) magnet programs for voluntary desegregation efforts and, finally, elementary school principal implementing a Portuguese bilingual maintenance program. She was Assistant Superintendent for Curriculum and Instruction in the Seattle Public Schools where she was responsible for Bilingual Education services and programs in addition to a multitude of other programs. Later Dr. Gil became Superintendent of the Chula Vista Elementary School District in California and institutionalized dual language programs in Spanish.

She earned her Doctor of Philosophy degree in curriculum and instruction, with an emphasis in bilingual education from the University of Washington.

Throughout her career Dr. Gil has demonstrated leadership in education—beginning in her early career as a bilingual teacher when she created the first Chinese bilingual program south of Los Angeles. As superintendent of Chula Vista Elementary School district she was awarded the Harold W. McGraw Prize in Education for her outstanding leadership in increasing student performance in the district. More recently she was a Senior Fellow and Managing Director at the American Institutes for Research where she developed and co-led the AIR Center for English learners.

James H. Shelton III
Deputy Secretary of Education