

Transition to Common Core State Standards

Implications for English Language Learners

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SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

Mary Peterson joined the WestEd staff in September, 2006. As a Senior Program Associate, she assists state departments of education under terms of the Southwest Comprehensive Center grant and is the liaison to the State of Nevada for the Regional Educational Laboratory West. Prior to joining WestEd, Peterson was Statewide Director of Teacher Education, then Vice President of Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty at Sierra Nevada College. From 1994 through 2000, she served as Nevada's Superintendent of Public Instruction; during her tenure she also served on the Board of Directors of the Council of Chief State School Officers (CCSSO) and WestEd, and was a State Commissioner to the Education Commission of the States (ECS). Prior to becoming the chief executive officer of the Nevada Department of Education, she held various positions, including Statewide Director of Title I and Deputy for Instructional, Research, and Evaluative Services. She began her career teaching junior and senior high school English in Connecticut and New York, and was principal of a small private K-8 school in rural Idaho. Peterson holds a BA in English from Carleton College, an MAT from Duke University, and completed PhD coursework at the University of Utah.

Eric Haas has been a Senior Research Associate at REL West at WestEd since 2008. Haas works to improve the school experience of English language learners, enhance middle school reform efforts, and further the link between education research and policy development, including policy research that emphasizes education issues in California, Arizona, Nevada, and Utah. His research has been published in academic journals, including the *American Educational Research Journal*, the *Bilingual Research Journal*, and *Educational Administration Quarterly*. Haas served as a middle school principal in Phoenix, AZ, and a middle school math and science teacher in London, England and Caracas, Venezuela. He began his work in education in the Peace Corps, directing the World Bank's Bassa Science and Technology Center and teaching high school physics in Buchanan, Liberia. He received a BS in electrical engineering from the University of Notre Dame, a JD from the Catholic University of America Law School, and a PhD in educational leadership and policy studies from Arizona State University.

Edynn Sato is Director of Research and English Language Learner (ELL) Assessment in the Assessment and Standards Development Services (ASDS) program, as well as the Director of Special Populations for the Assessment and Accountability Comprehensive Center (AACC) at WestEd. Her areas of focus include large-scale assessment (e.g., formative, summative) for general education, ELL students, and students with disabilities; alignment, linkage, and crosswalk studies of standards, assessment, and curricula; frameworks for standards and assessment development and implementation; and research in emerging areas related to the assessment and accountability of ELL students and students with disabilities (e.g., academic language, access, accommodations) that impact policy and practice. Prior to joining WestEd, Sato worked in various academic, nonprofit, small for-profit, Fortune 500, and internet-based organizations, including LeapFrog SchoolHouse, eSCORE.com, SCORE! Education, and CTB/McGraw-Hill. She served as lecturer in the College of Education at San Jose State University, teaching courses on assessment and evaluation and the psychological foundations of education; and as a researcher at UCLA's Center for the Study of Evaluation/ CRESST. She received a BA in multidisciplinary studies (elementary education) from Santa Clara University, and an MA and PhD in educational psychology from UCLA.

Meg Livingston Asensio is Director of Education Research Dissemination for WestEd's Regional Educational Laboratory West and Innovation Studies. From 2001-2008, Livingston Asensio worked in several for-profit education organizations, including Sopris West Educational Services and Voyager Expanded Learning, and provided independent consulting services to nonprofit education institutions. From 1995-2001 at WestEd, Livingston Asensio served as Director of the Success for All Regional Training Center, worked with the Comprehensive School Reform Demonstration Program, the National Award Program for Model Professional Development task force, and with the U.S. Department of Education on teacher quality issues. Previously, she worked as an instructional facilitator for the Center for Social Organization of Schools at The Johns Hopkins University. A former middle school language arts teacher, Livingston Asensio has been a nationally recognized cooperative learning trainer and international consultant. She holds a BA in English from Mary Washington College of the University of Virginia and an MEd from Colorado State University.

