April 27, 2011

Dear Colleagues:

I am happy to announce that the two rescheduled National Conversations on English Learner Education will be held May 9 and 10 in New York City and Charlotte, NC. I wish to express how grateful my staff and I are for your patience and support during the last week while we worked to find new meeting space and renegotiate new hotel contracts.

I truly hope you will be able to join us in either New York or Charlotte. As the four previous National Conversations have shown us, the dynamic and meaningful dialogues that took place among diverse EL stakeholders provided a wonderful opportunity to identify current areas of major concern, share promising practices for classroom and schools, and define new directions for reform and transformation in English learner education. Therefore, I cannot begin to express how important it is for you to attend.

Although we suffered a setback with the postponement of these meetings last week, we in the Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA) recognize this is an opportunity for us to continue the important work we began two months ago. It is my hope that we will come together to make these two final meetings as memorable and successful as the previous ones. I look forward to seeing you in New York and Charlotte.

Sincerely,

Rosalinda B. Barrera, Ph.D.
Assistant Deputy Secretary,
Director, Office of English Language Acquisition
U.S. Department of Education