What Makes for Quality Education for English Learners in the 21st Century?

What Needs To Be Included and What Actions Can We Take: Lessons Learned from the Past and New ideas for Today

Open Space Report: New York City

As a convener, we would like you to put together a short report from your group describing the following. When you're finished, please type in this report in one of the laptops and hand in this sheet. Thanks!

1. Names of group members
   Facilitators: Helaine Marshall and Ellie Palewonsky

2. Issue/Topic/Activity
   SIFE students: placement and promising practices

3. Highlights of Discussion/Recommendations/Next Action Steps
   We need to recognize what they bring to learning. Need a paradigm that helps them connect transition to American way of schooling as that is what is required for success.

   Key Points:
   Find out what prior learning they have- not necessarily formal education
   There is NOT higher incidence of special education in this group
   System needs to move them when they are ready, not after a given amount of time

   Issues:
   Do guidance people have info and skills?
   National policy of only recognizing 4 year HS completion is a barrier
   Tech centers need ELL support
   Undocumented students are limited in jobs and post-secondary schooling

   Models: Accept these conditions for learning
   Oral tradition
   May need relevance
   Interconnectedness
   Learn in the present- what you need today
   Move to independence a value for teachers, not necessarily students

   Processes: Combine their ways of learning and ways of American schooling
   Rely on one another
   Oral transmission vs written word
   Use pragmatic tasks in context of doing
   Since we must test, teach the task that is tested
4. **Available Resources**

Elle reviewed new website she has been working on:

Guidelines for Educating ELL/LEP/SIFE students
[http://bit.ly/Lno0Bn](http://bit.ly/Lno0Bn) or go to

[www.nysed.gov](http://www.nysed.gov)
Office of Bilingual Education
Resources
Guidance Documents
Guidelines for Educating LEP/ELL/SIFES

5. **Follow-up requests**