Overall Objective
• Build on the success of the 2009-2010 ILAS K-12 Outreach through continuing to partner with strategic organizations that strengthen and magnify the impact of ILAS programs in bringing Latin America to New York City schools.

Continuing to Partner with the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project
• Reading and Writing Project Saturday Reunion (March 19, 2011)
• Reading and Writing Project Summer Institute (June 27-July 1, 2011)
• These events will feature authors such as Mirta Ojito (Columbia School of Journalism faculty, Pulitzer Prize winning author of *Finding Mañana*).

A New Partnership with New York City Outward Bound (NYCOB)
• Initial training workshops led by Maria Eugenia Lozano (Barnard) and others will be given to teachers at the Washington Heights Expeditionary Learning School (WHEELS) in February 2011.
• Opportunity to extend training to additional Outward Bound schools in New York City.
ILAS K-12 June 2010 Workshop

Latin American Authors & Literacy: Collaboration with the Reading and Writing Project
June 30, 2010
Teachers College, Columbia University

Alma Flor Ada and Isabel Campoy co-led a two part workshop highlighting the integration of teaching Latin American history, sharing personal heritage, and supporting students in their roles as informed readers and authors of their own stories. Alma Flor Ada then gave a keynote address in the Cowin Center Auditorium, where every seat was filled (more than 500 attendees). Twenty of the 28 workshop participants completed a workshop evaluation form. Of those, 18 ranked their overall satisfaction with the workshop as 5 out of 5 (two participants ranked their satisfaction as 4 out of 5).

Teacher comments included:

• "I am appreciating the richness and the depth that culture brings to education. I will use these ideas to help other teachers find meaning and inspiration."

• "Workshop was amazing, and will help me to transform my students’s writing so that they feel validated. Students must value their roots and be proud of their backgrounds."

• "I learned to honor and nurture the heritage that children bring as they come to our classrooms."

• "Very powerful experience. You have us in tears!"

ILAS K-12 March 2010 Workshop

Meaningful Stories, Engaged Readers: Using Latin American Literature to Strengthen Reading for Grade 3-5 Students
March 20, 2010
Teachers College, Columbia University

Maria Eugenia Lozano facilitated an excellent workshop on as part of the Teachers College Reading and Writing Project (TCRWP) Saturday Reunion.

This ILAS workshop considered how Latin America is an increasingly important resource for schools with growing Latino student populations, and reviewed general strategies for using Latin American literature in teaching grade 3-5 reading and writing. Several methodologies and techniques were discussed, and participants received copies of the books to take home.
ILAS K-12 December 2009 Workshop

Upgrading the Curriculum: How Local History, Student Heritage, & Community Resources Can Improve Learning

The approximately 35 participants who attended the December Harlem Schools Partnership (HSP) Workshop sponsored by the Fu Foundation School of Engineering and Applied Science, the Teachers College Office of School and Community Partnerships, the General Electric Foundation, and the Institute of Latin American Studies (ILAS) had the opportunity to learn from three talented experts on how education can more effectively serve the needs of all students in Harlem, especially students of Hispanic origin.

Opening the event was Dr. Regina Cortina, Associate Professor of Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, who shared her recent research related to the educational experiences and attainment of Latinos in New York City, and the related implications for policy makers and teachers. In this way participants were introduced to the importance and urgency of the topic at hand, and given a context in which to understand the presentations that followed. Dr. Carlos Vargas-Ramos, assistant political science professor at Columbia University and public policy researcher at the Center for Puerto Rican Studies at Hunter College, then gave an overview of Harlem’s evolving history of migration and land use, explaining how state and national policies facilitated change, and concluding with a vivid description of the current challenges and resources of northern Manhattan. Finally, Dr. Heidi Hayes Jacobs, an international expert in curriculum design with experience training, supporting and inspiring teachers in schools across the United States and internationally, led participating teachers in activities and dialogue about how they can “upgrade” their classrooms to better utilize the heritage of their students and the resources of Harlem to improve learning.

The event also featured recorded music of the Spanish Harlem Orchestra playing “Una Gran Dia en el Barrio”, and a buffet of Latin American food including empanadas and roast pernil. A special part of the evening was the participation of four high school students who added important voices to the dialogue regarding what effective education should include. All participants received handouts including a rubric and coaching protocols for developing quality curriculum maps, a guide to Harlem resources for educators, and a fact-sheet on Harlem’s history and demographics. In addition, through the workshop an online discussion group for the teachers was created, which will facilitate further collaboration and participation in HSP events.

A possible next step may be to offer this workshop for high school teachers at Philip Randolph High School.

Comments from December Workshop Participant Evaluation Forms

• When asked to rate the relevance of the workshop on a scale of 1 to 5, 95% of participants ranked it 5 (highest; very relevant).

• When asked to rate their satisfaction with the workshop on a scale of 1 to 5, 95% of participants ranked it 5 (highest; very satisfied).

• “Very dynamic & engaging, inspiring and powerful”

• “Challenged me greatly to put aside my personal comfort and to do more than just meet standards, really powerful, I need to start tonight”

• “Pushed me to involve my students’ culture…Made me excited about where I work and live”

• “I learned how to interact with other people and their needs…though Harlem is old, it is still very new”

• “I have so many new ideas about how to integrate technology within an already set curriculum….the students, each other, and the actual land is a great resource”

• “I learned how to make learning more relevant by truly connecting the past, present and future in meaningful, fulfilling ways….please conduct workshops for the mayor, chancellor and school districts…what a great workshop”
**Additional Events Co-Sponsored by ILAS**

**The Educational Needs and Strengths of Mexican Youth and Families**  
October 2-3, 2009  
Teachers College, Columbia University

This conference explored the educational opportunities and experiences—from early childhood to adulthood—of Mexican youth and families in the tri-state area. The event drew over 200 conference participants including: researchers, graduate students, undergraduate students, high school students, teachers, school administrators, parents, community organizations, and representatives from the NYC Department of Education.

The conference featured a roundtable discussion on immigrant education from an international comparative perspective, a joint effort between Teachers College and CUNY. Kris Gutiérrez, Professor and Provost’s Chair at the University of Colorado at Boulder, gave a keynote address entitled “The Pedagogical Imagination and Mexican American Youth: Teaching toward Possibility.” Stella Flores, Assistant Professor at Vanderbilt University, spoke on “State DREAM Acts and Latino Immigrant Youth: Public Policy, College Access, and Geography.”

**Afro-Latin@s in the Americas: History and Culture of an Invisible Majority**  
*Presentation, Workshop, and Cultural Expression*  
February 24th, 2010  
Teachers College, Columbia University

*Guest Speakers:*  
Professor Juan Flores, New York University  
Miriam Jiménez Román, Executive Director of the Afro-Latin@ Forum

This event will focus on the experience of the African diaspora in the Americas, particularly the Caribbean and Brazil. It will feature a presentation on the history and culture of people of African descent in the Americas—paying particular attention to issues of identity. The presentation will be followed by an interactive workshop by the Afro-Latin@ Forum aimed at helping teachers incorporate these themes into their curriculum. The event will culminate with a cultural performance and reception featuring Afro-Caribbean music and food.

**Social Movements and the Politics of Change in Latin America**  
Thursday, April 8, 2010  
Teachers College, Columbia University

A roundtable discussion with Dr. Wendy Harcourt, Editor of *Development* and Director of Programs at the Society for International Development and Dr. Lia Machado, Ruth Cardoso Chair at Columbia University

Discussant: Dr. Regina Cortina, Associate Professor at Teachers College.