



INSTITUTE OF
LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES
COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

K-12 Outreach 2013-2014 Professional Development for Teachers

Spring 2014 Workshop: February 18, 2014

"Meaningful Stories, Engaged Readers: Using Latin American Literature to Strengthen Reading for K to 6 students"

Overview: This session offers a useful introduction to how Latin American literature can be used to strengthen the reading abilities and performance of students in the K-6 levels. It has been found that children for whom English is a second language respond positively to the inclusion of appropriate literature in their native language in the classroom. It is also beneficial for other students in broadening their cultural and linguistic horizons. In this session, Maria Lozano, Professor from Barnard College, addresses this issue and shares strategies for using this tool effectively. She will be joined by Karen Cruz, a fifth-grade Dual language teacher, who will share her experiences in the classroom using Latin American literature. The session is designed to be a practical one, with specific reference to three books that can be used to incorporate Latin American literature into the classroom: *Tomas and the Library Lady* by Pat Mora; *My Name is Maria Isabel* by Alman Flor Ada; and, *Esperanza Rising* by Pam Munoz Ryan. Complimentary copies of all three books will be available at the session for participants.

"Communities in Action: Access to Quality Education for Latino Students." March 28-29, 2014, Teachers College, Columbia University.

This two-day conference will highlight some of the most promising strategies and practices by teachers, administrators, and community leaders to support Latino students in K-12 education. Among the various topics that will be discussed, are: culturally responsive and relevant pedagogy; family, community engagement; understanding youth culture for teaching and learning; and supporting newly-arrived immigrant students. This conference will serve as a forum to promote powerful teaching for Latino students in the 21st century.