

Special Interest Groups

World Languages and Cultures Special Interest Group

Friday, February 24, 2017 ■ 4:40 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. ■ Meeting Room: Coronado Ballroom A

Chair: Mariella Espinoza-Herold, Northern Arizona University, Flagstaff, AZ

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Good Things Come to Those Who Wait: California is Bilingual!

Mariella Espinoza-Herold, Northern Arizona University

About 72.5 % of Californians voted in favor of Proposition 58 and the return of bilingual and dual-language programs in public schools during the last national elections on November 8th. Bilingual programs were eliminated 18 years ago in California with the passing of proposition 227.

Californians today, understand that bilingual programs prepare children for an increasingly globalized future and that we need to cultivate children's linguistic resources. Over 1.3 million public school students whose primary language is not English will have the chance to become biliterate. California was the 1st state to adopt the Seal of Biliteracy in the U.S. and in Orange country alone, there are bilingual programs in Spanish, Vietnamese, Mandarin and Korean.

In a round table format, this session will discuss with teachers and ELL coordinators in California--the repercussions of this new law to the education of children in California. (Implementation of the new law, teacher training and assessment of the programs will be also covered)