

Dear Educator:

Preliminary conference information is now available online regarding the 28th Annual Statewide Conference for Teachers of Linguistically and Culturally Diverse Students - January 24 to 27, 2005 to be held at the Hyatt Regency in Oak Brook, Illinois. Each day of the conference will feature sessions on the WIDA English language proficiency standards and the ACCESS assessment. To access the web site, please go to the following web site: <http://www.thecenterweb.org>. Click on the Illinois Resource Center (IRC) on the left hand side of the page. This will take you to the IRC page. Click on 28th Annual Conference, "Many Creeks Enrich the Main Stream," located on the left hand side of the page.

Please note the following change in the program. Dr. Gary Orfield, founding co-director of The Civil Rights Project at Harvard University and a professor in its Graduate School of Education, will be speaking Monday evening, January 24 at 6:00 pm. The title of Dr. Orfield's talk will be "Misguided Accountability: Is NCLB Unfairly Sanctioning Our Schools?" (Jonathan Kozol, the original speaker for that evening has been forced to withdraw because of a personal matter.) Professor Orfield is an outstanding and visionary educator. We are very excited at the prospect of hearing him speak at our conference.

Registration forms are due at the Illinois Resource Center by Friday, January 7, 2005. For more information, you may contact the IRC at 847-803-3112.