

July 10, 2006

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to the Leadership Institute for Latino Literacy (LILL) and The George Washington University (GWU) in Washington, DC. We are delighted to host you at our university, and look forward to meeting you on July 31. We are certain you have many questions and hope this letter, along with the Institute website, will provide useful answers.

The Institute, presented by the National Council of La Raza with generous support from State Farm Insurance and developed by GWU's Center for Equity and Excellence in Education (GWU/CEEE), has invited 50 middle and high school teachers to further develop their professional knowledge and practice, particularly in the area of literacy instruction and English language learners. Institute topics and activities are intended to be very practical and student-oriented.

To better understand your expectations about the Institute, and to know more about what you need to have a successful teaching experience this coming school year, we will call teachers from each participating school on July 12, 13 and 14. If there is a certain time you would like us to call you, please email Pat DiCerbo at [pdicerbo@ceee.gwu.edu](mailto:pdicerbo@ceee.gwu.edu). Enclosed is a list of the questions we will ask. We appreciate the help of those who volunteer to talk with us. We also encourage all participants to read the questions and to reflect on what you hope to gain from your Institute experience. You may want to share this letter with your colleagues who do not have an email address.

Before you arrive in Washington, DC, take a moment to visit GWU via the Internet at <http://www.gwu.edu>, and the Graduate School of Education and Human Development (GSEHD) at <http://gsehd.gwu.edu/>. The LILL web site will provide travel information, the Institute schedule and materials at <http://ceee.gwu.edu/projects/LaRaza06.html>, and will be continuously updated from now until July 31, to provide you with the most current information relating to the Institute.

Please do not hesitate to phone or e-mail us any questions you may have regarding the Institute's content or schedule of activities. You may contact Pat DiCerbo at 703-528-3588 x13 or [pdicerbo@ceee.gwu.edu](mailto:pdicerbo@ceee.gwu.edu).

Sincerely,

Charlene Rivera, Ed.D.  
Research Professor and Executive Director  
The George Washington University  
Center for Equity & Excellence in Education