



**FAMILY LITERACY SUPPORT NETWORK (FLSN)
Division for School Improvement, LACOE
2008-09**

FLSN Biographies

FLSN Staff

Liz Guerra is the Sr. Project Director of the FLSN. Liz is formerly from the Los Angeles Unified School District. As administrator of the Planning, Grants, and Public Information Office, Division of Adult and Career Education, Liz worked closely with staff and public and private organizations to enhance and expand education and training options for adults, youth, and families. For more than 13 years, Liz provided technical assistance in program design, implementation, grant writing, and networking to LAUSD schools and local community agencies to expand family literacy programs throughout the LA area. Liz has taught English-as-a-Second Language and citizenship to adults. Liz has a Masters in Public Administration from USC, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, with an emphasis in Public Service from UC Santa Barbara.

Elida Garcia is a consultant/facilitator to the FLSN. Elida is on-loan from Hawthorne School District where she worked as a Parent Involvement Facilitator and School Psychologist. Elida supports local family literacy programs utilizing her skills and experiences in parent education, early childhood education, special education, grant writing, professional development, and program management. At Hawthorne School District, she coordinated parent involvement programs throughout the district that included First 5 LA Family Literacy, Even Start, CBET, Title I, and Jump Start Kindergarten. Elida also served as a parent educator and a teacher trainer. She provided classroom and parent consultation, assessment, and counseling services for grades preschool through high school. Elida has a M.S. in Counseling/School Psychology from Cal State Northridge, and a B.A. in Psychology from UCLA. She is a Licensed Educational Psychologist.

Armando Wm. Argandona is a consultant/facilitator to the FLSN. Armando is on-loan from LAUSD with 30 years of experience as a Pre-K through 5th grade teacher, school change consultant, staff and curriculum developer, data inquiry specialist, literacy coach and content expert with in a bilingual support unit, director of various programs, one being the Conservatory of Fine Arts at CSULA. Armando's passions are working with parents, the preschool-kindergarten arena and advocating on behalf of early childhood issues. He is the past president of the California Kindergarten Association and is a National Board Certified Teacher as an Early Childhood Generalist. At CSULB, he studied dance extensively and has a B.A. from Loyola Marymount University.

SPECIAL PROJECTS ADVISOR

Michele Perry is the Grantee Advisor to the FLSN. Michele has over a decade of experience in providing evaluation, assessment, technical assistance, training and quality improvement services to a broad range of programs from local, community-based organizations to state and national groups. Her expertise includes systems development, field-based implementation, project planning and management and program accountability/effectiveness. Her experience includes nationally recognized work on literacy, Equipped for the Future, Even Start, workforce adult literacy, qualitative data analysis and assessment instrument development. Michele also has 15 years of classroom experience. Michele has a B.S in Education from Illinois State University and Ed.M from the University of Illinois.

FLSN CONSULTANT/ADVISOR

Esther Yasui is a consultant/advisor to the FLSN. For the past 12 years, Esther has been an independent evaluation consultant working with local Even Start programs, school districts, non-profit organizations and universities on literacy and other educational projects. Prior to becoming a consultant, she worked as a Senior Associate at IOX Assessment Associates and as a Higher Education Specialist in testing and evaluation at the City University of New York. Esther's background is in test development and evaluation. She is a graduate of UCLA with an M.A. in Education and a B.A. in Anthropology. She completed her doctoral coursework and qualifying exams in Social Research Methods at UCLA's Graduate School of Education and Information Studies.