

# CLD Corner: Q&A for the CLD Experts

The CLD Corner is a regular column written by members of the TSHA Task Force on Cultural and Linguistic Diversity (CLD).

The CLD Corner was created in an effort to respond to questions on cultural and linguistic diversity (CLD) and is answered by members of the TSHA Task Force on Cultural and Linguistic Diversity. Members for the 2008-2009 year include **Lynette Austin, Gina Glover (Co-Chair), Katsura Aoyama, Ellen Stubbe Kester (Co-Chair), Nelcy L. Cardenas, Catherine Carrasco-Lynch, Benigno Valles, Julia Peña, Erica Dinkins, and Jacqueline Lopez.** Submit your questions to [ginamglover@yahoo.com](mailto:ginamglover@yahoo.com). Look for responses from the CLD Task Force on the TSHA website and in the *Communicologist*.

The CLD Task Force is now offering half- and full-day trainings for school districts, education service centers, university programs, and other agencies on **Assessment and Intervention with CLD Populations**. For information, contact Gina Glover at [ginamglover@yahoo.com](mailto:ginamglover@yahoo.com).

## Bilingual Certification/Standards

A recurring issue that affects the CLD Task Force is standards for bilingual speech-language pathologists. Many employers (e.g., school districts, early childhood intervention programs, hospitals) complain that, at times, people who present themselves as bilingual speech-language pathologists start the job and then reveal that they are not comfortable enough with their proficiency in their second language to provide services. Another common scenario is that employers hire speech-language pathologists (SLPs) who have good proficiency in two languages but are not familiar with bilingual language development and assessment procedures for persons who are bilingual. On the other side of the coin, many bilingual SLPs who are well-versed in bilingual issues note that their employers often require some type of certification in order for these professionals to receive the additional stipends or higher pay scale offered for those who serve bilingual populations. At this time, such documentation of bilingual proficiency and related knowledge and skills may be difficult to obtain.

One of the top priorities of the CLD Task Force is to explore the different certification programs offered by universities to provide a list of core competencies that employers should look for in the hiring process and to enable qualified bilingual SLPs to be compensated for their work with bilingual populations. Currently, some employers provide informal measures to award additional compensation for bilingual speakers, but others require some type of certification. For SLPs who graduate from universities that do not offer a bilingual certificate, it is often difficult for them to receive additional compensation for the work they do. (See ASHA's website [www.asha.org/about/leadership-projects/multicultural/opportunities/hbi.htm](http://www.asha.org/about/leadership-projects/multicultural/opportunities/hbi.htm) for a list of university programs with bilingual training and/or certification programs.)

In addition to exploring the various competencies required for bilingual SLPs, we are also exploring the requirements of different states for practicing bilingual SLPs. To our knowledge, the state of New York is the only one that requires a "bilingual extension certificate" for SLPs to provide speech and language intervention to bilingual children and adolescents. New Mexico has introduced legislation in past legislative sessions for bilingual certification, but it has not passed. TSHA has no current plans to introduce legislation on this issue, but it is important to be aware of what is occurring in other states.

As we start on this new Task Force goal, we welcome your input and sharing of experiences with this issue so we can be certain that we address the needs of our membership. Please email the Task Force Chairs listed below with comments, questions, or thoughts on this issue. Stay tuned! We will report the feedback we receive and our progress on this issue in the October 2009 CLD Corner.

Task Force Co-Chairs:

**Gina Glover**, [gina.glover@fwisd.org](mailto:gina.glover@fwisd.org)

**Ellen Kester**, [ellen.kester@bilinguistics.com](mailto:ellen.kester@bilinguistics.com)

*Task Force Favorites:* This time we recommend ASHA's website ([www.asha.org](http://www.asha.org))! Under "Members and Professionals" click "multicultural affairs and resources" for many valuable and updated resources and links. One of Gina's favorites is the website [www.nvtc.gov/lotw/languageList.html](http://www.nvtc.gov/lotw/languageList.html). Use this website to learn about the history, status, sound system, grammar, vocabulary, and written form of over 120 languages.



## Third Annual Private Practice Networking Dinner

Save the Date: Friday, April 3, 2009, during the  
2009 TSHA Convention in Austin

Catered Dinner & Cruise on Lady Bird Lake  
Watch the Bats from the South Congress Bridge  
Network with Colleagues

Limited Seating / Ticket Information Coming Soon  
For more information contact Barbara Samfield, TF  
Co-Chair, [bsamfield@sbcglobal.net](mailto:bsamfield@sbcglobal.net)

