

Dear Colleagues:

As of the end of June 2011, the Asian Languages Bilingual/ESL Technical Assistance Center (ALBETAC) will complete its 5-year contract and will no longer stand as a separate office to serve ELLs from Asian language backgrounds. The new contract will fund Regional Bilingual Education Resource Networks (R-BERNS) to continue to provide services to ELLs of Asian language backgrounds. The three current language BETACs (ALBETAC, Spanish BETAC, and Haitian BETAC) will be consolidated into one language R-BERN. The educational agency awarded the contract will be in place in September, 2011.

The Asian Languages BETAC has developed a variety of resources to address the needs of the field, including students, teachers, administrators and parents. During the transitional period from BETAC to R-BERN, you can access ALBETAC website's resources at <http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter/albetac/resources> .

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you a little of the history of ALBETAC, as well as some of its accomplishments throughout the years. The Asian Languages BETAC has the distinction of being the first language specific BETAC in New York State and has served this educational community for 21 years. In 1990 CABETAC (Chinese/Asian Bilingual-ESL Technical Assistance Center) was awarded a contract by the New York State Education Department to provide technical assistance and professional development to the schools and school districts in New York State that serve ELL students from Asian language backgrounds. Since its inception in 1990, this technical assistance center, now known as ALBETAC, has expanded its targeted population to include six targeted language groups (Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Korean, Russian and Urdu). In addition, it has developed a number of invaluable standards-based educational resources that can be accessed online, provided technical assistance and support to transitional bilingual, dual language and foreign language programs in the targeted languages, and worked with schools, parents and the community toward the goal of raising the academic achievement of our ELL students.

I would like to thank my staff for their efforts and commitment as we worked together to carry out ALBETAC's mission. As we conclude our service at ALBETAC, my staff and I will return to the Office of English Language Learners (OELL) of New York City Department of Education. We will collaborate with the new R-BERN to continue to serve the ELLs from all language backgrounds and students in foreign language programs. It has been our privilege and pleasure to have worked with you. Please accept our best wishes for the future.

Sincerely,

Pat Lo
ALBETAC Director



(From left to right) Susan Y. Rui - Field Resource Specialist,
Dang T. Khuu - Principal Administrative Associate,
Pat Lo - ALBETAC Director, Lisa C. Lin - Field Resource Specialist