October 2015

Announcement from Dr. David E. Kirkland, Director.

The Steinhardt School of Education, Culture and Human Development at New York University is pleased to announce the awarding of a five-year $11 million grant from the New York State Education Department (NYSED) to support the New York State Statewide Language Bilingual Education Resource Network (RBE-RN) at the Metropolitan Center for Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools.

The NYS Statewide Language RBE-RN will be the primary organization in New York State providing information and resources to meet the needs of English Language Learners (ELLs) and world language students, their families, and the educators who serve them. This grant will continue to augment and complement the Metro Center’s mission to work collaboratively and effectively with the NYSED and school districts throughout the state in helping to ensure a quality and equitable education for students of all backgrounds in New York State.

The NYS Statewide Language RBE-RN at NYU’s Metro Center will build upon its previous nine years of success of being an effective partner with the New York State Education Department in providing leadership support, technical assistance and resource development on behalf of educators, students and parents of English Language Learners and world languages students. It will continue to provide information and professional development aligned with goals set forth by NYSED for educational leaders and teachers, including teacher preparation and effectiveness specifically aimed at English language and bilingual content area teachers of ELLs and world language teachers.

According to Metro Center Director David E. Kirkland, “The NYS Statewide Language RBE-RN gives NYU Steinhardt a presence throughout the State of New York. It also places Steinhardt in a position to lead in vexing areas of language support and services necessary for advancing equity in education.”

This grant will further the reach of the NYS Statewide Language RBE-RN to the state’s rapidly growing diverse population of ELL parents with a first of its kind ELL Parent Hotline in the state’s ten most prominent languages. The ELL Parent Hotline will provide parents with information about their rights and services for their children and a mechanism to inquire about their rights and the delivery of services for their children pursuant to state regulations via a dedicated website and multiple phone lines in separate languages.
Nellie B. Mulkay, Director of the NYS Statewide Language RBE-RN, indicated that “it is critical to have an informed, empowered community of parents, guardians and other persons in parental relation to ensure that our ELLs are well served. Since most schools districts in NYS do not have available translation resources, the ELL Parent Hotline will provide parents of ELLs with much needed up-to-date information and the unique opportunity of having their inquiries responded to in their home languages.”

For more information regarding the New York State Language RBE-RN at Metro Center, please contact: Nellie B. Mulkay at nbm3@nyu.edu.