Connecting with Your ELL Students – An Asian Perspective

A workshop for teachers of English language learners, Connecting with Your ELL Students – An Asian Perspective, was held at the UFT Manhattan office on March 23, 2010. Director of ALBETAC, Pat Lo, provided a quick view of the world through the eyes of ELLs and discussed how teachers of ELLs can raise their awareness to better understand the needs of ELLs, both academically and socially.

Participants analyzed the ELA and Math testing data for the ELL population by language group. As a result, they gained a better understanding of ELL student academic performance citywide. They also took some cultural notes on Asian countries. For example, they learned that the object comes before the verb in the Korean language and that Brooklyn has the largest Chinese and Arabic ELL population in New York City.

Participants were given two scenarios describing situations that Asian students might experience in school. They then had the opportunity to discuss and share ideas on how to best handle these situations.

Participants felt that the information and experiences provided by this workshop better equipped them to understand and to connect with their ELLs. They also learned about the many resources that ALBETAC has to offer, including the translated glossaries that can be downloaded from the website http://steinhardt.nyu.edu/metrocenter/albetac/translateglossaries.