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Notes on Contributing Authors

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Notes on Contributing Authors

Pamela Brillante, EdD, is an Assistant Professor of Special Education at the William Paterson University of New Jersey specializing in Early Childhood Special Education. Dr. Brillante is an author of many publications including her new NAEYC book *The Essentials: Supporting Young Children with Disabilities in the Classroom*, and she continues to consult and collaborate with school districts to present about high quality inclusive early childhood practices to teachers and families.

Susana C. DeJesús, EdD, Scholar in Residence, NYU, researcher, writer, educator, consultant, Language Acquisition, Early Childhood, Dual Language, and Literacy. She was professor of Education at the University of Puerto Rico; Graduate Faculty and Early Childhood Bilingual Consultant at Bank Street College; Federal Monitor Head Start, Early Head Start; Peer Reviewer FIPSE at OELA. She designed and implemented \$1.5 million K-4 Dual Language program, participated on NYS Committee on Bilingual Pre-K, NJ Preschool ELL Group, projects by CAL, NIH, White House Initiative on Educational Excellence, and was public school teacher NYC and PR, school/district administrator, with doctorate from Columbia University, and MA from NYU.

Judie Eisenberg, BA, is a proposal writer, program planner, and evaluator who helps not-for-profit and government entities to maximize their impact, sustain their organizations and position themselves to win competitive grant dollars. Her company, ProposalPro, Inc., has helped organizations to secure more than \$500 million in funding over the past 22 years. A grant professional certified (GPC) by the Grant Professional Certification Institute (GPCI), she received her B.A. from the State University of New York at Albany and is pursuing a graduate degree at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY.

Idalia Gutiérrez, MAEd, is an adjunct faculty member at Dominican University outside of Chicago. She is currently a dual language teacher in the Highland Park-Highwood school district.

Samina Hadi-Tabassum, PhD, is a clinical associate professor at the Erikson Institute in Chicago. She teaches courses in bilingual/ESL education, literacy development, and linguistics. Her book titled *Language, Space and Power* (2006) won awards for its critical ethnography of a dual language classroom.

P. Zitlali Morales, PhD, is Associate Professor of Curriculum & Instruction in the College of Education, and affiliated faculty of the Latin American and Latino Studies (LALS) program at the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). Dr. Morales examines the language practices of Latino youth and linguistic interactions of students and teachers in bilingual classrooms. She works in teacher education to prepare teachers to meet their multilingual students' needs by leveraging their linguistic skills and cultural knowledge. Dr. Morales is co-PI of a National Science Foundation funded project studying the digital literacy practices and transnational ties of immigrant youth.

Zoila Morell, PhD, is an Associate Professor in Educational Leadership at Mercy College. In over 25 years of experience working with children and families, she has served in an administrative capacity in a variety of programs working with young language learners and their families. She received statewide recognition for her work as a school principal where she administered programs for over 1000 children and families, mostly from immigrant homes. Dr. Morell currently serves on several advisory

boards to the New York State Education Department on the identification and instruction of young language learners in the growing PreK programs across the state. A frequent keynote speaker and presenter, she also consults with school districts on language acquisition, emergent literacy, school readiness, parental involvement, bilingual education, and early childhood programming. In addition, Dr. Morell's research examines bilingual early childhood education, bilingualism in young children, and conditions for young Latino children in the US.

Karen Nemeth, EdM, is the Senior Training and Technical Assistance Specialist - DLL at Zero to Three. She is an author of more than ten books and many articles focusing on supporting early education for children from diverse language backgrounds. She is the editor of *Young Dual Language Learners: A Guide for PreK-3 Leaders* and hosts a resource website at www.languagecastle.com

Carola Otero Bracco, MBA, a first-generation US born of immigrant parents from Bolivia, is the Executive Director of Neighbors Link. She received her MBA from Duke University and worked in corporate finance before leading Neighbors Link, a community based organization with a mission to strengthen the whole community through the healthy integration of immigrants. During Carola's tenure, Neighbors Link has become a leader in designing, implementing, and directing community-based, bilingual educational and cultural awareness training programs. In 2016 the organization was awarded the prestigious Non-Profit Management Excellence Award by the New York Community Trust.

Joseph C. Rumenapp, PhD, is an Assistant Professor of Literacy Education at Judson University where he teaches coursework on educational linguistics, ESL and bilingual education, and research methods. Having previously worked in school and youth contexts in Chicago, his research focuses on promoting more equitable learning opportunities through understanding language ideologies in urban education and how discourse analysis can be used as a tool for teacher professional development.