

A project to build a new generation of English learner leadership

**October 2015**

### **Introduction**

Californians Together has developed a work plan for a five year effort that will initially result in a group of fifteen new English learner (EL) education advocates/leaders. These **EL fellows** will be equipped to advance proactive projects (such as the current biliteracy campaign), as well as to respond effectively to anticipated political challenges at state and local levels. In addition to the preparation of selected cohorts of new EL leaders, the project aims to make more widely available an EL leadership and legacy curriculum that can empower many other leaders at the local, regional and state levels. The project will draw on the perspectives of many senior EL leaders, and current advocates for ELs and will use a blend of whole group training institutes, one-on-one coaching and mentoring and project based experiences.

### **Goal**

The goal of the initiative is to develop a new generation of strong, well-informed, skilled, courageous and activist leaders to build and sustain the movement for educational equity and excellence for English Learners. The **EL Leadership and Legacy** curriculum will provide a framework, historical context, lessons from the past, immersion in research, mentorship and skill development to inspire and prepare advocates to work at multiple levels (state, district, community) to establish strategic action agendas, move policy and practice, develop and leverage research, work with media, and build and mobilize coalitions championing the right to quality education for English learners.

### **Content Objectives – New leaders will know:**

1. EL education: History, context and legacy
2. What works: EL education theory and research
3. Policy, law and legislation
4. Who's who: State and federal education players
5. Reality check: school, district, county, state and federal operations
6. What works: Leadership, systems and implementation on the ground
7. Media
8. Parent and family partnerships and leadership in the EL movement
9. Frames of exclusion and inequality: Racism, culture, language and class
10. Lessons learned from prior and current initiatives

### **Process Objectives - New leaders will:**

1. Use effective communication
2. Provide effective facilitation and leadership
3. Analyze and develop effective strategies
4. Make use of sound judgment, courage and reflection
5. Use and conduct research

### **Timeline**

- 2014 – project and work plan development, initial fundraising, develop criteria for mentors and fellows.
- Spring/summer 2015 – project launch, and recruitment of first cohort of fellows
- Fall 2015 - February 2016 – selection of fellows and initial training and mentoring.

**For further information:** <http://www.californianstogether.org/>

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