



Event Held to Promote Dual Language Immersion Education in Madison

March 12, 2018

For Immediate Release

Contact: Althea Dotzour, Nuestro Mundo, Inc. board member

608-223-9539, dotzour@nuestromundoinc.org

On March 10, Nuestro Mundo, Inc., the Latino Education Council, and Centro Hispano co-sponsored Madison's 6th Dual Language Immersion Summit at Centro Hispano. Dr. Salvador Carranza, President of Latino Education Council, told the crowd of 50 parents, teachers, youth, and community leaders involved in dual language immersion education in the Madison Metropolitan School District (MMSD) that "monolingualism is the new illiteracy."

While children played and sang Spanish songs nearby, participants connected as a community in support of Dual Language Immersion (DLI) education. Since Nuestro Mundo Community School opened their doors as Madison's first K-5 DLI school in 2004, Spanish/English DLI programs have expanded and are now available in 10 elementary schools, four middle schools, and one high school with another high school to be added in 2018-2019.

MMSD has a small Office of Multilingual and Global Education, which provides support for English as a Second Language (ESL) programs as well as bilingual education and DLI programs. Participants expressed interest in working together to create a stronger sense of community across DLI schools in Madison and to provide more support for middle and high school programs.

With 19% of MMSD's population being Hispanic, and 27% being English Language Learners, the interest and need for DLI education in Madison is only going to continue to grow. Participants of the DLI Summit are interested in helping the Madison School Board appreciate the scope and importance of DLI programs and would like to see the district allocate more resources for DLI coordinators within high schools and mentorships as new programs are developed.

Panelists at the DLI Summit, including recent LaFollette graduate Oscar Cruz, highlighted the importance of expanding DLI class offerings in high school to include honors and AP classes. They also stressed the importance of hiring native Spanish speakers as teachers, and highlighted opportunities for MMSD and the UW to connect to help Madison's DLI graduates obtain teaching credentials and return to Madison to teach.

Dr. Patricia Tellez-Giron, parent of DLI students, summarized the importance of DLI education for all students in MMSD, "DLI teaches students more than language, it teaches students acceptance and inclusion of differences. It has the power to transform our communities."

###

To learn more about how to connect with the dual language immersion community, email dli summit@nuestromundoinc.org. Photos from the DLI Summit are available for download and distribution (photo credit: Althea Dotzour Photography) at <http://cart.altheaphotos.com/dli summit2018>

-Latino Education Council is a non profit organization, working with our communities and our school districts to build a more equitable and inclusive public education system. <http://www.latinoeduca.org>

-Centro Hispano of Dane County's mission is Empowering Youth, Strengthening Families, Engaging the Community. We aspire to a vision where Dane County, Wisconsin will be a community where Latino families can aspire upward, to reach their personal goals and dreams because they feel engaged and strengthened with the tools for success. <http://www.micentro.org/>

-Nuestro Mundo, Inc. empowers and unites community members by providing and enhancing multicultural educational opportunities in Spanish and English. <http://nuestromundoinc.org>