The Department of Culturally Relevant Education has prepared unit lessons and professional development (PD) presentations that the current CR teachers have completed and which will be made available to newly participating CR teachers. The focus of PD sessions for new participants shall be on CR theory, research and practical applications. A designated cadre of experienced CR teacher shall serve as Peer Mentors and assist the Program Coordinators in modeling effective CR instruction and in developing additional CR unit lessons.

The professional development sessions will promote the use of CR instructional strategies that are research-based and foster students’ development of complex knowledge and skills in the larger community as well as in the classroom. Culturally responsive instructional strategies promote:

- student collaboration through positive interactions
- teachers’ high expectations for student achievement
- the use of academically challenging curricula and materials
- approaches that are both culturally and linguistically responsive
- academic engagement among students
- socially responsible community action
- higher-order, critical thinking skills

The CRE Department shall continue conducting Saturday PD sessions to assist in the further development of the CR curriculum and to design common assessments for each of the grade-level CR courses in English and social studies. The Saturday sessions also provide teachers with opportunities to become familiar with new textbooks, to collaborate with colleagues to develop their instructional strategies as appropriate, and to advise each other as they share the successes and challenges encountered in the classroom. Teachers will have the opportunity to critique newly developed lessons. The sessions will be open to current CR/MC teachers and TUSD educators who are interested in leading Culturally Relevant classes in the future.

These are the scheduled session dates of the PD:

- September 5, 2014 (In-service)
- September 27, 2014
- October 25, 2014
- November 22, 2014
- January 24, 2015
- February 21, 2015
- March 28, 2015
- April 25, 2015
Roster of Participants:

**Cholla HS:**
Andrew Walanski: AA Lit
Linda SantaCruz: MA Govt.
Marie Piña: MA US History
Carlos Wong: AA US Hist
Elizabeth Grijalva: MA Lit
Cory Jones: MA US History

**Pueblo HS:**
Jessica Mejia: MA US Hist/Govt
Angelina Garcia
Sally Rusk

**Tucson HS:**
Alexandro Escamilla
Jennifer Contreras

**Catalina HS:**
Alexander Velgos

**Middle School Teachers:**
Mark Romero: Valencia
Laura Ballesteros: Valencia
Rina Valdez
Sylvia Valdez-Rogers
Alma Valdez-Pena
Jose Gonzalez
Jesus Velasquez