

Kathleen Leos

BIO

Kathleen Leos is the founder of the Education Neuroscience Foundation Inc (ENF). Established in 2014, ENF's mission is to highlight and illustrate 'teaching and learning' strategies based on current education neuroscience or brain science findings related to How the Brain learns, processes information, acquires knowledge and thinks with a specific focus on developing dual/ multiple languages and executive function. ENF features Researchers, Teachers, Administrators, Parents, and Education Stakeholders working together in 21st century education environments to increase the academic performance of all learners, pre-birth to adults and revolutionize education systems, worldwide, based on current empirical science.

Ms. Leos is the CEO of The Global Institute LLC (GILD). The company is a highly specialized professional consultant services organization that facilitates transforming education systems based on current scientific research, education neuroscience, and federal and state legal requirements. The goal is to increase the academic and linguistic success of English and Dual Language Learners enrolled in Head Start, Early Childhood, K-12, and Postsecondary Education and the Workforce. See website www.gilld.com

GILD was founded in 2008, with Ms. Leos' departure from the US Department of Education, where she served a six- year presidential appointment as the US Department of Education's Office of English Language Acquisition's (OELA), Assistant Deputy Secretary and Senior Policy Advisor to Secretary Dr. Rod Paige and Margaret Spellings (2001-2007).

In this role, Ms. Leos provided expert guidance and implementation oversight of the congressional Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)'s Title III federal legislation, and regulations to the education stakeholders in 50 states, DC, Puerto Rico and the outlying areas who are responsible for the achievement results of the 5.5 million 'language minority' students enrolled in the nations' public, private and charter schools. Ms. Leos' duties included developing national, state and district accountability systems for English and Dual Language Learners and to advise the U.S. Secretaries of Education on all matters related to 'language minority students' immigrant students and their families as defined by ESEA- Title III.

Ms. Leos personally visited 47 states, Puerto Rico and Washington DC to interpret the law, establish Federal-to-State-to-Local partnerships to ensure the community as well as each state agency appropriately included Els in each State Accountability System according to the legal requirements identified in the law.

Under her authority, States developed new research-based language standards and implemented aligned systems of Standards, Assessments, Data and Accountability that included English and Dual Language Learner' academic achievement for the first time in the history of public education in the United States. Ms. Leos organized business, community and parent outreach partnerships for Els and DLLs nationwide. She also authored the Congressional Biennial Reports to Congress on the 2002-2008 academic progress of Els.

Prior to her service in Washington, D.C. Ms. Leos served 7 years (1995-2002) as a School Board trustee for the Dallas Independent School District in Dallas, Texas. During her tenure, she held multiple positions as Board President, Vice-President, and Chair of the Business, Personnel, and Education Committees. Ms. Leos held the position as DISD's State Legislative Education Liaison (1996-2002) and co-authored the state's HB 103 or the EL "No Exemption" Bill which required Texas State Education Agency to include ELs in the State Accountability System for the first time in the in the history of Texas public education.

Ms. Leos is the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions. Among them are the 2005 Mexican American Legal Defense Educational Fund Excellence in Government Service Award, 1995 Texas Women of Spirit Award, the 1996 Velma Schmidt Early Childhood Award, 1996 Advocate of the Year Award, and the 1995 International Altrusa Community Service Award, in which she was selected out of nominations from 200 countries around the world. In 1999, the International Reading Association recognized her efforts to create reading centers in inner city non-English speaking communities. In that same year, the Ford Motor Co. presented Ms. Leos with the Hispanic Salute Award for literacy efforts in the Hispanic community. In 2001, her company, Basic English Inc., won the Laura Bush First Lady Family Literacy Award. The Texas Woman Trailblazer nomination was presented to Ms. Leos in 2002, and in June 2003 the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) honored Ms. Leos with its President's Award for Excellence in Education for Hispanic Students. Currently, Ms Leos serves on several boards and commissions in pursuit of academic excellence for English Learners and immigrant students. She is the Chair of the Advisory Board for the Annette Caldwell Simmons, School of Education's Institute for Education Policy and Leadership developed in concert with the Bush Education Institute for Education Leadership. She also serves as a board member to the MIND Research Institute commissioned by the National Academy of Sciences and is an expert consultant to Scientific Learning. Ms Leos is an enthusiastic board member to the Today Foundation's Texas Leadership Forum that explores avenues to support developing young civic and political leaders in minority communities. In 2014, she with a group of the nation's leading researchers and education experts, founded the Education Neuroscience Foundation (ENF). Ms Leos joined the Project ELL Advisory Board in 2014 and provides input to the company's mission to assist states, and districts' efforts to meet the academic achievement of ELs using relevant, valid and actionable data for ACCESS!

Kathleen Leos' energetic approach to her work comes from her belief that "Every student that crosses the threshold of America's schools deserves the best education this country has to offer. It is every student's academic civil right. "It is our unmitigated responsibility to give every child the education he or she needs to be successful in life. It is an honor to have been selected to oversee that guarantee from the National perspective."

In her current position, as CEO of GILD and founder of the Education Neuroscience Foundation, she continues this same commitment and mission to ensure equal access to equal educational opportunity for all English Learners in the US and worldwide.