

ParentCamp: International Packet

April 18, 2016

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April 18th ParentCamp: International - Committee Members

Nora Illia Morales
Vice President,
Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, Inc. (Sponsor)
Senior Education Equity Advisor
The Mid Atlantic Equity Center
[301.657.7741 x121](tel:301.657.7741) | nora@maec.org
<https://maec.org/>

Jennifer Love
Family Engagement Specialist
Office of Interpreting and Translation
Prince George's County Public Schools
The Maryland ELL Family Involvement Network (MELLFIN) - Sponsor
jennifer.love@pgcps.org
Office: 301-408-5511
Fax: 301-408-5539
<http://www.mellfin.org/6.html>

Young-chan Han
Family Engagement/Title I Specialist
Maryland State Department of Education
200 W. Baltimore St.
Baltimore, MD 21201
410-767-6756 (office)
Young-chan.han@maryland.gov

Robin Hamby
Family Partnerships Specialist
Family and School Partnerships
Instructional Services Department
Dunn Loring Center for Parent Services
2334 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, VA 22027
703-204-4330
rshamby@fcps.edu

Min Kim
Supervisor of International Student and Family Services
Howard County Public School System
5451 Beaverkill Road
Columbia, MD 21044
410-313-1294
min_kim@hcpss.org

U.S. Department of Education:

Vicki Myers, PhD
Special Assistant
Office of Elementary & Secondary Education
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave S.W.
Washington D.C.
202-453-6687
vicki.myers@ed.gov

Carrie Jasper
Director, Outreach to Parents and Families
Office of Communications and Outreach
U.S. Department of Education
400 Maryland Ave S.W.
Washington D.C.
202-401-1524 (office)
202-260-7465 (fax)

Han, Young-chan; Jasper, Carrie; Love, Jennifer/ ParentCamp: Innovative Strategy to Engage Families
(February 24, 2017, 10:30-11:30 a.m.)

Invitation letter to parents:

Dear _____

You have been nominated to attend the 2016 **ParentCamp International**, hosted by the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), 400 Maryland Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20202 on Monday, April 18, 2016 from 9 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. This **ParentCamp International** provides an opportunity for parents and educator connectors from immigrant communities to come together to share personal expertise, cultural perspectives, strategies to benefit student achievement, and best practices for parent leadership. This event is for our valued parent leaders and educator connectors in our schools and communities.

You are one of 100 identified participants from the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area to have this opportunity to network and engage in facilitated discussions pertaining to:

- Locating Resources for Early Learning
- Understanding College and Career Readiness: Pathways to Success
- Bridging the Cultural Divide Between Parents and Children
- Realizing Parent Leadership’s Impact on Student Learning
- Connecting to Community and School Resources
- Supporting Families of Students with Disabilities
- Knowing English Learners and Students’ Civil Rights
- Counteracting and Interrupting Racism and Bullying in the Schools

The **ParentCamp** model centers around discussion that focuses on participants’ personal experiences, perspectives, and expertise. We ask that you please come ready to share! We look forward to a rich and engaging experience for all participants.

We hope you will serve as an ambassador and share your **ParentCamp International** experience with your communities. This may include replicating the **ParentCamp** model in your own community, sharing new and/or relevant information with your peers, staying connected to new friends met at this **ParentCamp International**, and telling other parents and educator connectors about the USDE’s “**Dear Colleague**” letter and new **Parent Guide**, which will be shared at this “**ParentCamp International**.”

We look forward to seeing you on April 18th at U.S. Department of Education. Please R.S.V.P. by April 1st; click here to [R.S.V.P. in Google Forms](#).

Following confirmation of your attendance, more information will follow regarding: Need for interpreters, travel directions, parking, meals, and identification needed for entry into the USDE building. We look forward to sharing and learning with you at the 2016 **ParentCamp International**!

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact: Robin Hamby, rshamby@fcps.edu , 703-204-4330.

Sincerely yours,

Vicki Myers, Elementary and Secondary Education, Special Assistant

cc: Carrie Jasper, Jennifer Love, Min Kim, Nora Morales, Robin Hamby, Young-chan Han

Invitation email to Session Monitors

Dear ParentCamp International Session Monitor,

Thank you for agreeing to serve as a session monitor at the April 18th ParentCamp International. Your help is very much appreciated!

Your tasks are very simple!

- Welcome folks into the room and guide them to the chairs.
- Once all chairs are taken use your best judgment as to how many more people should be allowed into the room. I recommend no more than 5 people leaning against the walls, and even then for some rooms this may prove too crowded.
- Once the cut off is reached you may have to turn people away.
- The lead facilitator will begin the session on time. (You do not have to introduce the facilitator(s)).
- Please capture any participants' key questions and responses on chart paper provided, or your paper.
- As the session wraps up please remind folks to complete the appropriate section of their evaluation form. Tell them that they will turn in the evaluation form after the Share Out session, at the end of the event. We will make pens and pencils available in each of the rooms.

Tips:

- You may want to familiarize yourself with where the restrooms are so that you can steer people that way.
- The program is attached for your review.
- There will be ED staff and others in the halls to help guide participants to sessions and interpret if needed.
- The day begins and ends in the auditorium.

Monitors' Assignments:

Location (room)	Topic	Monitor Session 1	Monitor Session 2	Monitor Session 3
1E106	Supporting Families of Students with Disabilities	Carmen Sanchez	Danny Rice	Marina Kelly
1W103	English Learner-Resources for Early Learning	Maria Lamb	Bryan Grigg	Beckey Miller
1W126	College and Career Readiness for All	Vicki Myers	Nora Morales	Hillary Tabor

Han, Young-chan; Jasper, Carrie; Love, Jennifer/ ParentCamp: Innovative Strategy to Engage Families
 (February 24, 2017, 10:30-11:30 a.m.)

	Students			
1W105	Parent Leadership and Its Impact on Student Success	Robin Hamby	Jennifer Miley	Marina Kelly
1W108	Connecting Community and School Resources with Families	Young-Chan Han	Tammy Proctor	Taylor Rockoff
Auditorium 1	Bridging Cultural Gaps Between Parents and Children	Jennifer Love	Taylor Rockoff	Nora Morales
Auditorium 2	English Learners- Students' Civil Rights	Carrie Jasper	Amanda Feliciano	Tammy Proctor
Auditorium 3	Counteracting Racism and Bullying in Schools	Nora Morales	Jennifer Barrett-Zitkus	Yvonne Mathieu

Email Invitation to Facilitators

April , 2016

Dear Session Facilitator,

On behalf of the ParentCamp: International Planning Committee, we want to thank you for agreeing to serve as a facilitator at the upcoming ParentCamp: International on Monday, April 18, 2016 from 8:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. at the U.S. Department of Education (USDE), 400 Maryland Ave., S.W. Washington, D.C. 20202. Your participation is critical to initiate collaborative conversations between parent leaders, educators, and community members.

The ParentCamp: International is an “unconference” opportunity for immigrant parent leaders, educators, and community leaders to come together in a group for discussion on selected topics. It’s called an unconference because each session relies on facilitated conversations around expertise and perspectives of everyone in the group. Participants will have an opportunity to attend three, 40-minute sessions during the day. The goal of this year’s Parent Camp is to build the capacity of parent leaders.

You will be facilitating _____ sessions with _____ (ADD NAME AND EMAIL) for the session titled: _____. The room assignments will be sent to you before the event.

Session times are: (list the sessions as appropriate)

Session 1	10:25-11:05
Session 2	11:15-11:55
Session 3	12:05-12:45

Attached are the guidelines for facilitators including suggested, guided questions for the session. These questions may serve as conversation starters related to the topic. Your role as a facilitator is to guide the discussion and manage a process that ensures everyone has an opportunity to participate. There will be a Take One Table available to participants as they sign-in for ParentCamp and welcome you to add any resources you think would be appropriate for participants to receive. ParentCamp: International is provided FREE for all participants and facilitators. Please note that all hotel, flight, and travel expenses will be the responsibility of all participants and facilitators.

Again, we appreciate your support for this great opportunity. Please use this link to RSVP by April 8th, 2016: [fill it out in Google Forms](#). If you have any questions about the day, do not hesitate to contact Nora Morales at nora@maec.org or 301-657-7741 ext. 121. We look forward to seeing you on April 18.

Sincerely,

ParentCamp: International Planning Committee

Guidelines for Facilitators

You were selected to facilitate your session because of your content expertise, ability to facilitate conversations with diverse stakeholders, and sensitivity to the issues facing immigrant families and students. We are providing you with these guidelines to best prepare you for the day. We appreciate your participation for this important opportunity to collaborate with families.

A Word about the ParentCamp Model:

The ParentCamp experience is an ‘unconference’ opportunity for parent leaders, educator connectors, and community leaders to come together and model the following four core beliefs:

1. All parents have dreams for their children and want the best for them.
2. All parents have the capacity to support their children’s learning.
3. Parents and school staff should be equal partners.
4. The responsibility for building partnerships between school and home rests primarily with school staff, especially school leaders.^{1,2}

ParentCamp is unlike other ‘conferences’ as the goal is shared dialogue and is based on the premise that everyone in the group has expertise to share. Therefore, there are no presenters, facilitators responsible for ensuring that everyone shares ‘air time’ equally, to prompt discourse through open-ended questions, and to keep the conversation flowing.

Facilitator Guiding Principles:

In order to effectively embrace these beliefs and model the true spirit of ParentCamp International, the most effective facilitators will:

- Cultivate an environment where everyone can have equal ‘air time,’ be welcomed and encouraged to share their opinions and experiences; and
- Provide space for participants to reflect, consider, pause for interpretation, and articulate responses in a way that is respectful and mindful of parents’ customs and comfort levels.

¹ ParentCamp retrieved from: <http://parentcampusa.weebly.com/what-is-parentcamp.html> .

² Henderson, Mapp, Johnson, and Davies. (2007) *Beyond the Bake Sale: The Essential Guide to Family-School Partnerships*. Pp. 27-43.

Suggested Guiding Questions:

(Include only the session for the facilitator)

Session Times:

Session 1	10:25-11:05
Session 2	11:15-11:55
Session 3	12:05-12:45

Supporting Families of Students with Disabilities: (Deepa Srinivasavaradan and Zaylimar Bocagnegra)

1. Who would like to share their experience trying to get help for their child for special needs?
2. What are some other things you wish your district or school could do to help you and your child? What are some things they could do to help other parents who are new to special education or the district or school?
3. What information or support help was most helpful to you and your child?
4. What are some ideas you have about how to better help parents of children with disabilities in our schools and improve special education?

English Learners – Resources for Early Learning: (Dr. Kim Kiehl and Ilhye Yoon)

1. Who would like to share their experience in early childhood programs? When you had young children or if you have young children, how did you find out about programs available for your children, like child care, preschool programs, etc.?
2. What are some things you wish the early childhood providers, district, or school could do to support your child's learning? If language was a barrier for you, or for people you may know, what suggestions do you have regarding what the community can do, like libraries or schools, to support your child's learning?
3. What are some resources that you have found helpful in helping your child become ready for school?

Bridging Cultural Gaps between Parents and Children: (Dr. Ana Patricia Rodriguez and Kwang J. Sunny)

1. What are some of the issues you face as parents when children start American schools? What is your aspiration for your child as he/she grows up in the American culture?
2. What can parents (school or community) do to help children keep one's culture and heritage alive and at the same time, learn and adapt to a new culture? How can schools or the community (faith based/ community organizations, etc.) support parents and children to balance two cultures?
3. Can you share your experience with "cultural clash" with your child and how you were able to overcome that clash - e.g. socially, academically, emotionally? Has there been anything that has been particularly helpful?
4. What are some of the things you wish your schools were doing to help families feel welcomed, acknowledge your culture, or to help your children be proud of their cultural heritage?

Parent Leadership and its Impact on Student Success: (Micheline Lavalle and Min Kim)

1. How would you define parent leadership; what does it look like in your school? How does your district support parent leaders like yourselves?
2. What have you seen as the benefits of parent leadership? Parent and child resilience?
3. We know it is important to link parent engagement to children's learning. What works in your school?
4. What ideas do you have to encourage more immigrant parents to become leaders in their schools? How might you reach out to cultural survivors vs. cultural connectors, etc.?

Connecting Community and School Resources with Families: (Laura Gardner and Matthew Peters)

1. Tell us about your experience as parent and community leaders, what are some of the issues you are seeing in the community? How well do you know of your community resources (give examples)? What are they and how do you access their resources and services?
2. What are suggestions you have of how the community (non-profit and faith-based organizations, and businesses) can reach out to support immigrant families?
3. What are some ideas you have to strengthen the partnerships between schools, community, and faith-based organizations to support the immigrant community?

College and Career Readiness for All Students: (Elizabeth Coogan, Patricia Chiancone, Sherene Donaldson, Dr. Edward Smith)

1. What has been your experience in helping your child get ready for college or careers?
2. What are some ways you feel that schools and school districts could help support you in getting your child ready for college or careers?
3. How well do you know about resources that are available (local, state, and federal level) for you and your children regarding college and career readiness?
4. What are your suggestions of how schools and school systems can support immigrant students and families understand college and career options available to your child?

English Learners and Students' Civil Rights: (Alejandro Reyes, Laura Hook, Maria Pastrana)

1. What has been your experience in enrolling, receiving language support, and understanding the school program?
2. What are some things you wish the district/school would do to make it easier for immigrant students (and families) to transition into American schools and be ready to learn?

3. How are schools and school districts communicating rights of ELs to parents, especially those with language barriers?
4. What are some ideas you have to improve the ways the schools serve the needs of immigrant students and families?

Counteracting Racism and Bullying in Schools: (Dr. Maritza Gonzalez and Sarah Sisaye)

1. What has been your experience with racism and bullying in schools?
2. Have you received any information regarding bullying and how to report incidences of bullying?
3. How are schools and school districts supporting immigrant students and families to counteract racism and bullying in schools?
4. What are some ideas you have or resources and support that you have used to counteract racism and bullying in schools?

Han, Young-chan; Jasper, Carrie; Love, Jennifer/ ParentCamp: Innovative Strategy to Engage Families (February 24, 2017, 10:30-11:30 a.m.)

Dear ParentCamp International Participant,

We look forward to meeting you on Monday, April 18th at the ParentCamp International in Washington, D.C. You will find some of the essential information below. If you have further questions please contact one of our planning committee members, listed below.

Who: Department of Education, main contact Carrie Jasper (Carrie.Jasper@ed.gov).

What: The ParentCamp International “Unconference”

What to Bring: You will need a formal **photo (with name) identification card** in order to fully enter the building and participate.

Where: Department of Education building located at **400 Maryland Avenue, South West, Washington, D.C. 20202**. Come in the Maryland Avenue S.W. entrance

Travel: If you choose to take Metro, the closest station is “L’enfant Plaza”. If you drive there are parking lots located on 4th Street. Street parking is available after 9:30 a.m. Busses marked as 30, 32 or 36 stop at Maryland Avenue and Constitution Avenue S.W.

Time: Registration and **arrival times 8:30 to 9:30 a.m.** The program begins promptly at 9:30 a.m. in the auditorium. The formal program ends at 1:30 p.m., but you may choose to stay and network.

Refreshments: Light refreshments and coffee/tea are available during registration. Lunch will be provided. If you have dietary restrictions and have not yet notified anyone please contact one of the people below.

Interpretation: If you require interpretation and have not yet notified anyone or included this with you registration please contact one of the people below. We cannot accommodate all languages, but we will do our best.

Program: You will attend three sessions, of your choosing, from the following topics—

- Supporting Families of Students with Disabilities
- English Learners- Resources for Early Learning
- College and Career Readiness for All Students
- Parent Leadership and Its Impact on Student Success
- Connecting Community and School Resources with Families
- Bridging Cultural Gaps Between Parents and Children

Han, Young-chan; Jasper, Carrie; Love, Jennifer/ ParentCamp: Innovative Strategy to Engage Families
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- English Learners-Students' Civil Rights
- Counteracting Racism and Bullying in Schools

ParentCamp: International Planning Committee Members:

Young-chan Han young-chan.han@maryland.gov

Nora Morales nora@maec.org

Min Kim min_kim@hcpss.org

Jennifer Love jennifer.love@pgcps.org

Robin Hamby rshamby@fcps.edu

Thank you!

ParentCamp: International Planning Committee

E-mail to Ed staff and colleagues regarding assignments

Dear ED Staff and Colleagues,

Thank you so much for offering to help with the April 18th ParentCamp International! Below you will see where you have been assigned to help out the tasks have been modified to have a role for everyone.

Prior to Event:

- Signage for the building Individuals in specific areas will direct our guests to the restrooms, elevators and to individuals who will take them to B-Level Library.
 - Carrie Jasper, Melvin Rogers (TDC rooms)
- Print programs and evaluations.
 - Carrie Jasper, Michele McBride, Wilford Mayes, Yvonne Mathieu, Marina Kelly
- Fold programs (if not done by Copy Center)
 - Amanda Feliciano, Yvonne Mathieu, Marina Kelly, Amanda Feliciano,
- Create list of attendees' names for registration table.
 - Nora Morales, Jennifer Love – can you send the final list of who registered
- Create badges for registrants, ED staff and intern/interpreter volunteers.
 - Jackie Murray
- Handout evaluation forms
 - Carrie Jasper will provide baskets, Yvonne Mathieu, Vanessa McKinney

Morning of Event:

- Collect and place pencils/pens, name tags, lists (numerous to ease check in process) of attendees on registration table.
 - Jackie Murray, Yvonne Mathieu, Vanessa McKinney, Carrie Jasper
- Hang signs.

Signs can only be placed on doors of areas for sessions. Carrie Jasper

Han, Young-chan; Jasper, Carrie; Love, Jennifer/ ParentCamp: Innovative Strategy to Engage Families
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-
- Set up and organize the miscellaneous materials resources table

- Beckey Miller, Amanda Feliciano,

During Event:

- Greet and direct, near front door by security

- Vicki Myers, Young-chan Han, Robin Hamby, Jennifer Love, Beckey Miller, Vanessa McKinney

- Greet and direct, near back door by security

- Danny Rice,

- Greet and direct, by auditorium

- Nora Morales, Vanessa McKinney,

- Work registration table

- Jackie Murray, Vanessa McKinney,

- Work registration table – Help guests find badges on table

- Beckey Miller, Ghenet Bereket, Yvonne Mathieu, Marina Kelly

- Work breakfast and lunch table

- Vanessa McKinney, Jackie Murray

- Intern/interpreter in hall between sessions – basement level (We hope to have interns volunteer. Many will be returning to school prior to the event.)

-

- Interpreters for parents within each session

-

- Room Monitors (manage flow of bodies into the room, assist facilitators as needed, direct folks to next session):

- 1E106

Carmen Sanchez

Danny Rice

Marina Kelly

Han, Young-chan; Jasper, Carrie; Love, Jennifer/ ParentCamp: Innovative Strategy to Engage Families
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- 1W103 Maria Lamb Brvan Grigg Beckey Miller
- 1W126 Vicki Mvers Nora Morales. Hillary Tabor
- Library 1 – left side Robin Hamby Jennifer Milev Marina Kelly
- Library 2 – right side Young-chan Han Tammy Proctor Taylor Rockoff
- Auditorium 1 Jennifer Love Taylor Rockoff Nora Morales,
- Auditorium 2 Carrie Jasper Amanda Feliciano Tammy Proctor
- Auditorium 3 Nora Morales Jennifer Barrett-Zitkus Yvonne Mathieu
- Stand by doors to auditorium to collect evaluation forms. Yvonne Mathieu
- Stand by doors to auditorium to collect evaluation forms. Amanda Feliciano

Other:

GSA table: Arlene Hernandez

HHS table: Sarah Oberlander, Lyn Haralson

Consumer Protection table: Meina Banh

Photographer: Leslie Williams

Language ; Sonia Mendez

April 18, 2016

PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK FORM

Please provide feedback, to help us improve the U.S. Department of Education's **ParentCamp International**. We appreciate your comments.

Please check all that apply:

Parent _____ Community Leader _____ Educator _____ Other: _____

Session 1 Title _____ Session Facilitator(s) _____

	Yes	No	NA
1. The session was very informative.			
2. I learned a lot from talking with other parents.			
3. I would recommend this session to others.			
4. The materials provided were helpful.			
5. I learned new things in this session.			

Comments:

Session 2 Title _____ Session Facilitator(s) _____

	Yes	No	NA
1. The session was very informative.			
2. I learned a lot from talking with other parents.			
3. I would recommend this session to others.			
4. The materials provided were helpful.			
5. I learned new things in this session.			

Comments:

Session 3 Title _____ Session Facilitator(s) _____

	Yes	No	NA
1. The session was very informative.			
2. I learned a lot from talking with other parents.			
3. I would recommend this session to others.			

4. The materials provided were helpful.			
5. I learned new things in this session.			

Comments:

General Session and Share Out

	Yes	No
Did you learn anything new from the keynote speaker?		
Did the sessions meet your expectations?		
Was the Share Out session worthwhile?		
Was the registration and check-in easy?		
Was the staff welcoming, friendly, and helpful?		
Would you recommend the <i>ParentCamp</i> to others?		

1. What topics would you recommend for future *ParentCamps*?

2. One thing I wish the U.S. Department of Education could do to help support our community is...

3. Would you be interested in hosting *ParentCamp* in your community/school/organization?
 Yes: _____ If yes, please provide your contact information (optional)
 Name _____ E-mail _____
 No: _____

Please turn this form in to the “Evaluation Box after the Share Out Session.”

Thank you! We appreciate your feedback!

참가자 의견반영 양식 (Korean)

학부모 캠프 인터네셔널의 향상을 위해 여러분의 의견을 반영해주세요. 여러분의 의견에 감사합니다.

다음중 여러분에게 해당되는 모든 조항에 체크해주세요:

학부모 _____ 공동체 지도자 _____ 교육자 _____ 이외: _____

세션 1 제목 _____ 세션 진행자(들) _____

	네	아니오	해당없음
1. 이 세션이 매우 유용했다.			
2. 다른 학부모와 대화나눔을 통해 많이 배웠다.			
3. 이 세션을 다른 부모에게 추천한다.			
4. 제공된 자료들이 유익했다.			
5. 이 세션에서 새로운 것을 배웠다.			

의견:

세션 2 제목 _____ 세션 진행자(들) _____

	네	아니오	해당없음
1. 이 세션이 매우 유용했다.			
2. 다른 학부모와 대화나눔을 통해 많이 배웠다.			
3. 이 세션을 다른 부모에게 추천한다.			
4. 제공된 자료들이 유익했다.			
5. 이 세션에서 새로운 것을 배웠다.			

의견:

세션 3 제목 _____ 세션 진행자(들) _____

	네	아니오	해당없음
1. 이 세션이 매우 유용했다.			
2. 다른 학부모와 대화나눔을 통해 많이 배웠다.			
3. 이 세션을 다른 부모에게 추천한다.			
4. 제공된 자료들이 유익했다.			
5. 이 세션에서 새로운 것을 배웠다.			

의견:

일반세션과 의견나누기

여러분은 기존 연결자로부터 새로운것을 배웠습니까?	네	아니오
이 세션이 여러분의 기대에 부응했습니까?		
의견 나누기 세션은 가치가 있었습니까?		
등록과 체크인 절차가 순조로웠습니까?		
스텝들이 환영하고 친절하며 도움이 되었습니까?		
여러분은 이 학부모 캠프를 다른분들에게 추천 하겠습니까?		

1. 앞으로 학부모 캠프의 주제로 무엇을 추천합니까?
2. 여러분의 미 교육부가 우리 공동체를 지지하는데 도움이 되는 한가지 바램이 있다면...
3. 여러분은 여러분이 속한 지역사회/ 학교/ 기관에서 학부모 캠프를 여는데 관심이 있으십니까?

네: _____ “네” 일 경우, 여러분의 연락처 정보를 주십시오 (선택사항)

이름 _____ 이메일 _____

아니오: _____

이 양식을 배치된 “평가박스”에 제출해주세요.

감사합니다! 여러분의 의견반영에 감사드립니다!

FORMA DE COMENTARIOS DE LOS PARTICIPANTES

Por favor proporcione sus comentarios, para ayudarnos a mejorar el *ParentCamp Internacional del Departamento de Educación*. Agradecemos sus comentarios.

Por favor marque todos los que apliquen:

Padre _____ Líder de la comunidad _____ Educador _____ Otro: _____

Título de la Sesión 1 _____ Facilitador(es) de la sesión _____

	Sí	No	NA
1. La sesión fue muy informativa.			
2. Aprendí mucho al hablar con otros padres.			
3. Recomendaría esta sesión a otras personas.			
4. Los materiales proporcionados fueron útiles.			
5. Aprendí nuevas cosas en esta sesión.			

Comentarios:

Título de la Sesión 2 _____ Facilitador(es) de la sesión _____

	Sí	No	NA
1. La sesión fue muy informativa.			
2. Aprendí mucho al hablar con otros padres.			
3. Recomendaría esta sesión a otras personas.			
4. Los materiales proporcionados fueron útiles.			
5. Aprendí nuevas cosas en esta sesión.			

Comentarios:

Título de la Sesión 3 _____ Facilitador(es) de la sesión _____

	Sí	No	NA
1. La sesión fue muy informativa.			
2. Aprendí mucho al hablar con otros padres.			
3. Recomendaría esta sesión a otras personas.			
4. Los materiales proporcionados fueron útiles.			

5. Aprendí nuevas cosas en esta sesión.			
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Comentarios:

Sesión general

	Sí	No
¿Aprendió algo del orador principal?		
¿Las sesiones cumplieron con sus expectativas?		
¿La inscripción y el registro fue sencillo?		
¿El personal fue cordial, amigable y de ayuda?		
¿Recomendaría el <i>ParentCamp</i> a otras personas?		

1. ¿Qué temas recomendaría para futuros *ParentCamp*?

2. Una cosa que deseo que el Departamento de Educación de los EEUU pudiera hacer para apoyar a nuestra comunidad es...

3. ¿Le interesaría organizar un *ParentCamp* en su comunidad/escuela/organización?

Sí: _____ De ser así, por favor proporciones su información de contacto (opcional)

Nombre _____ Correo electrónico _____

No: _____

Por favor entregue esta forma en la "Caja de evaluación." ("Evaluation Box")

¡Gracias! ¡Agradecemos sus comentarios!

ParentCamp International: A Military Spouse's Experience

When I first received the invitation for ParentCamp International, the first thought that came to my mind was I just can't miss the opportunity and I had to be there!! I was very excited. As a military spouse, whose husband has been deployed more than five times and being a mother of three kids, and as a part-time employee of the Anne Arundel county public schools, I felt that it was a chance I may not get again. Meeting senior officials of the Department of Education and parents and educators from various other systems to share stories and hear their experiences was a great networking opportunity.

Entering the hallway of the federal building, everyone was very helpful and welcoming! We were welcomed in several languages, which was impressive as well. I felt honored to hear from representatives of the White House, Justice Department, and Secretary of Education John King surprised us by making a sudden appearance. The day was very well-planned, eight sessions within three different time periods, most of which were relevant to my line of work.

During the breakout sessions, I was able to interact with other educational professionals, parents, ED staff, and others from the DC metro area. In the first time period I attended "Bridging Cultural Gaps Between Parents and Children of Middle Eastern, South Asian or Other Cultures," which was relevant to my own personal situation. Within that session I was able to share my experiences and was very pleased to hear multiple perspectives, since it is a topic that is very near and dear to my heart. I, personally, have made efforts to eliminate that gap in my community.

The second and third time periods were equally as engaging, informative, and open, allowing individuals to share their experiences from different perspectives. Topics included supporting families of students with disabilities and English Learners – students' civil rights, and counteracting racism and bullying in schools.

The ParentCamp experience gave attendees the opportunity to share, network, and learn from each other. I did share the resources that we have in Anne Arundel County and did learn a lot from other parents and educators from other counties. To learn more about ParentCamp International go to <http://www.ed.gov/family-and-community-engagement> and look under Bulletin Board.

Mahwish Anwar
Military spouse
Bilingual Family and Community Outreach Facilitator
Office of School and Family Partnerships
Anne Arundel County Public Schools

Han, Young-chan; Jasper, Carrie; Love, Jennifer/ ParentCamp: Innovative Strategy to Engage Families
(February 24, 2017, 10:30-11:30 a.m.)



June 27, 2016

Mrs. Susan Shaffer
President and Executive Director
Mid-Atlantic Equity Consortium, Inc.
5272 River Road, Suite 340
Bethesda, MD 20816

Dear Mrs. Shaffer,

Thank you for agreeing to be a sponsor of the ParentCamp that was held at the U. S. Department of Education on April 18, 2016. Securing sponsors for this important event was especially important this year since this was the very first event of this kind. Our purpose in having Parent Camp International was to encourage parents to partner with their schools and communities to improve all students' academic achievement. Your monetary support of the event in the form of donating boxed lunches to those who attended was a great vote of confidence in ED's mission, shared responsibility in the partnership with school and home.

As a sponsor, you were thanked publicly and recognized as a patron/contributor during the event and signs acknowledging your gift were placed on tables during the ParentCamp. Enclosed is a program of what activities were planned for the day. Your generous donation made it all possible.

Please accept our most sincere thanks for your support.

Sincerely,
Libby Doggett, Ph.D.
Deputy Assistant Secretary
US Department of Education
Office of Early Learning
Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

Vicki Myers
Special Assistant in the Office of Elementary and Secondary Education

Carrie Jasper
Director, Outreach to Parents and Families



June 27, 2016

Mrs. Jennifer Love
President
Maryland English Language Learning Family Involvement Network
International Programs, Room 224
8908 Riggs Road
Adelphi, MD 20783

Dear Mrs. Love,

Thank you for agreeing to be a sponsor of the ParentCamp that was held at the U. S. Department of Education on April 18, 2016. Securing sponsors for this important event was especially important this year since this was the very first event of this kind. Our purpose in having this Parent Camp is to encourage parents to partner with their schools and communities to improve all students' academic achievement. Your monetary support of the event in the form of donating boxed lunches to those who attended was a great vote of confidence in ED's mission, shared responsibility in the partnership with school and home.

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***ParentCamp International Program –
English and Spanish attached as separate documents***