

MEDIA ADVISORY

THECB hosts nationally recognized expert in Latino education

July 27, 2009 – Austin, Texas – The [Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board](http://www.thecb.state.tx.us) will host Dr. Patricia Gándara, a professor of education in the Graduate School of Education and Information Sciences at the University of California – Los Angeles, July 28-30.

Dr. Gándara has conducted major research regarding educational equity and access for low-income and ethnic minority students, on language policy, and on the education of Mexican-origin youth. She is the author and editor of numerous reports, articles, and books including the newly released (with F. Contreras), *The Latino Education Crisis: The Consequences of Failed Social Policies*, from the Harvard University Press. She also has a forthcoming book from Teachers College Press (with M. Hopkins), *Forbidden Language: English Learners and Restrictive Language Policies*, and the

She is scheduled to host a series of lectures during her visit that will include meetings with THECB staff, members of two- and four-year colleges and universities from around the state, public education officials, and political dignitaries. She will also give a major policy discussion to the THECB full Board during the quarterly Board meeting on July 30.

A highlight to Dr. Gándara's tour will include a special event held in conjunction with the [Austin Community Colleges – Riverside Campus](http://www.thecb.state.tx.us) on Wednesday, July 29th, Room 8100, Bldg. G, where she will meet with residents from the predominantly Latino neighborhood that surrounds the campus, ACC students and staff, and local officials. The event is from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. and is open to the community. Doors open to the general public at 4 p.m.

Her visit comes in recognition that Texas needs to focus more intently on meeting targets related to the Hispanic population in the state's higher education plan, *Closing the Gaps by 2015*. Although significant gains continue to be made in the enrollment of Latino students since the plan's adoption in 2000, those gains need to increase even more dramatically to reach the expressed target to graduate 67,000 Latinos by 2015.

This and other updates for the 2009 *CTG* progress report will be discussed during the quarterly Board meeting. The full report will then be made available to the public online at <http://www.thecb.state.tx.us/index.cfm?objectid=858D2E7C-F5C8-97E9-0CDEB3037C1C2CA3>.

Dr. Gandara received her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology from the UCLA and is currently the co-director of the school's Civil Rights Project/Proyecto Derechos Civiles. Her past experience includes serving as associate director for the University of California's Linguistic Minority Research Institute, commissioner of post-secondary education for California, a bilingual school psychologist, social scientist with the RAND Corporation, and director of education research in the California Legislature.

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