

2015 Iris M. Carl Equity and Leadership Award Announcement
April 15, 2015, Boston MA, TODOS Meeting

This year's TODOS Iris M. Carl Equity and Leadership Awardee already stated 30 years ago that "the language used to convey mathematical ideas to students has become a topic of increased concern to mathematics educators..." He also stated that "an inadequate grasp of the language of instruction is a major source of underachieving in schools."

In the decades that followed, our awardee has participated at all levels of mathematics education with the focus on teaching mathematics to English Language Learners, cultural and linguistic issues, and the appropriate pedagogy to teach this student population. He has collaborated with many researchers and mathematics educators, including colleagues in Australia, Mexico and Central America, advised masters and doctoral students, gave workshops for in-service teachers, and worked with pre-service teachers and school children. He has made presentations at many conferences, including as the invited opening speaker at the conference organized by CEMELA in Tucson in 2010, and given workshops for in-service teachers. He highlights the necessity to prepare new teachers to understand the culture and the language needs of immigrant students while developing teaching methods that support their learning of mathematics and language. His impressive publication list of articles, book chapters, chapters and book reviews includes articles in the Journal for Research in Mathematics Education and the Navigating through Algebra series of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics. His chapter, "Empowering all students to learn mathematics," was included in the 1995 NCTM yearbook, *Seventy-five Years of Progress: Prospects for School Mathematics*, edited by Iris M. Carl.

Our awardee's lengthy list of accomplishments reflects his unwavering commitment to the mathematics education of ELLs and minority students. His early experiences in the United States included teaching fifth grade in a small rural community in southwest Florida. Visiting the family of one of his students at a migrant camp was an eye opener into the poverty, racism, and educational inequities faced by his students. These experiences significantly influenced his future professional career. He received an award from the Mathematical Sciences Education Board of the National Research Council, National Academy of Sciences for work contributing to the increase of minority student representation in mathematics.

Our awardee is one of the founders of the International Study Group of Ethnomathematics (ISGEm). He was the founding president of Future Leaders of

America, a program that had been created to support struggling high school students, the majority of which were Latina/o. In that program high-achieving students became peer mentors of recent immigrants to not only assist them academically but also to provide emotional and social support. The Los Angeles Times reported that enrollment of Latina/o students at community colleges in areas where the program was implemented increased in the years following the implementation. Our awardee was one of the founders of TODOS in 2003, having served on NCTM's Equity and Diversity Committee, and has since held TODOS leadership positions as director, chair of several committees, and Vice President.

Our awardee is Professor of Mathematics at Texas State University-San Marcos and Professor of Mathematics Education Emeritus at the University of Miami. At Texas State University, he has served as a leader in building a successful Mathematics Education doctoral program, served as Co-Pi in an NSF DRK-12 Project to investigate the impact of dynamic geometry software in a large predominantly Latino school district. He has helped and supported young faculty through the difficult path to tenure and advises doctoral students, providing support without reservations. According to one of his colleagues, he is a true educator, sensitive mentor and open-minded leader.

For his pioneering work and lifetime commitment to the mathematics education of Latina/o and other underrepresented students and for his continued remarkable collaborations with scholars, practitioners, future teachers and students, I am very pleased, on behalf of TODOS, to present the 2015 TODOS Iris M. Carl Equity and Leadership Award to Dr. Gil Cuevas.