

## Standing Committee on International Concerns

**Charge:** *To develop knowledge of and relations with the council's counterparts in mother-tongue literacy organizations in this hemisphere; to identify organizations for teachers of mother-tongue literacy in countries in the western hemisphere, as well as other areas of significant migration to and from the US, and make recommendations to the [NCTE Executive Committee](#) in order to promote knowledge exchange among the organizations.*

- *What organizations exist in this hemisphere whose mission is complementary to our own?*
- *What kinds of collaborations with these groups seem practical and advisable?*
- *What organizations serve teachers of mother-tongue literacy in other countries sending significant numbers of students to the US, including those in Asia, Africa, and Eastern Europe?*

*To advise the NCTE Executive Committee and staff about how the council might provide specific help to teachers about the ways educational and literacy practices in other nations may affect their students and the interactions they are experiencing with their students, for example: through appropriate publications and conference planning efforts;*

- *What can we learn from conferences and publications for mother-tongue literacy organizations in other parts of the world? How can we best share this information with NCTE members?*

### **What major actions or projects have been completed by your group pursuant to your charge since July 1, 2010?**

The standing committee has decided to focus on English Language Learners (K-20) from Spanish-speaking countries. A group of committee members have shifted their attention to the Mexican border towns, mostly due to the border violence that has recently erupted in many border towns in both countries. In addition, educators from border areas help to provide insights as to the nature of shifts in identity among Hispanic populations, as students attempt to reconcile their experiences with the demands of schooling, steeped in an atmosphere where accountability is in the forefront. We were able to bring presenters from Mexico and U.S. border towns to present their work with ELLs at the annual conference.

### **What projects, initiatives, or studies are "in progress" at this time?**

We are currently working with Arte Publico to sponsor a panel of Hispanic authors of adolescent literature and sponsor practitioners who use this literature in the classroom so they may share their experiences.

*Angelica Fuentes, Chair*