

Workshop on Special Education

Saturday, July 13, 2019
9:00 am - 12:30 pm



PRESENTERS' BIOS

Jesús M. Villaseñor

PACER Center
Multicultural Specialist/Parent Trainer/Advocate

Experience with Parent Training and Information Center

Aug. 1996 – present Parent Advocate/Trainer, PACER Center

Provides outreach services for Hispanic communities in the state of Minnesota about the Multicultural Project and parent involvement in their child's academic achievement and all other activities at PACER. Assists Hispanic/Latino families individually in obtaining information and services with educational, medical, social, and recreational programs for their children with and without disabilities from state, county and city, statewide. Advocate for parents of children receiving special education in schools. Attends school meetings with parents.

- Advisory Board of the Institute of Community Integration, U of M (2000 – Present)
- Member of the Advisory Board for the Minnesota Office of Ombudsperson for Latino Families
- Served as a member and Chair of the Board of Directors of the Chicano Latino Affairs Council, providing advice to the State Governor and Legislature about issues and concerns in the Latino community;
- Licensed Attorney in Mexico

Hassan Samantar

PACER Center
Somali project coordinator/Multicultural Parent Advocate/Trainer and Somali Parent Advisor

He conducts in-services for professionals; provides training on culturally sensitive issues; leads workshops for parents; gives individual assistance; provides resources to parents. He works with families on various projects, including early childhood programs, special education, technical assistance, and allies with parent centers in other Somali communities in greater Minnesota. Hassan has served various state and local advisory committees in a community advisory capacity. He collaborates with multiple projects with state and public agencies such as Minnesota Department of Education (MDE), Minnesota Department of Health (MDH), Minnesota Department of Human Services (MDHS), school districts and local universities. Most recently, he served as a member of Department of Human Service's Cultural and Ethnic Communities Leadership Council (CECLC), and he is present member of Minnesota-ADDM (MN Autism and Developmental Disability Monitoring Network) advisory board.

Dao Xiong

PACER

Parent Advocate

Dao has been a parent advocate at PACER Center for 26 years, provides information and resources for Asian American families of children with or without a disability about their rights and responsibility for their child's learning through workshop, personal assistance and written materials. He has a daughter with a mild cognitive developmental delay and a son with mental health challenge. He also participates with many organizations as advisory role.
