

**2011 Leadership Institute:
Yvette Sanchez Fuentes**

Yvette Sanchez Fuentes: We have a great morning planned for you this morning, and we have a great day going forward. Couple of announcements, though, before we get started with the program. Today in the Johnson Room, from 11 to 5:00, please remember that this is an opportunity for you to come and tape your Head Start story. So please, please take a moment, head over to the Johnson Room anytime between 11 and 5:00 this afternoon, so that we can get your story down on tape. Also, a room change, so keep this in mind as you're planning for your day using your implementation planner. At 2:00 today, the session entitled "New Resources to Promote Parent, Family, and Community Engagement: The PFCE Framework and Beginning Self-Assessment" is being moved to Lincoln Room 5 and 6. So please make that note.

We also want to remind folks that up on the mezzanine level we have several exhibits going on, so please take some time to head up there. You'll get a lot of resources that have been developed through the national centers, but you'll also get to see a lot of other folks who've been developing resources for Head Start and for the early childhood community at large.

We were pretty rushed yesterday morning, and so I want – just want to take a moment today to really thank Sharon Yandian at the Office of Head Start. [Applause] She really has been the force behind making sure that everything came together for this Institute, and she really took our vision and ran with it. And everything that you experience over this Institute is really due to Sharon, and – she had some help, though. So we also want to acknowledge and thank the folks on the planning committee. We couldn't have done it without you, and we appreciate the time and the commitment that you took to really helping us to put all of this together.

I also want to thank our partners, NAYC; they also have been a driving force behind this in helping us to put the sessions together. And I want to thank NHSA, the National Indian Head Start Director's Association, and the National Migrant and Seasonal Head Start Associations, who have also really supported this effort as we've been planning through the last year.

And then I also, finally, want to thank the folks at Pal-Tech. You've seen them walking around. [Applause] They're the folks who really have organized this, and we really couldn't do it without them. They put all the pieces together. They make sure that not just me and the plenaries, but that everybody – all of you get what you need every day. So, I want to thank Dorothy and Tara and the team for all their efforts and all their work. Thanks guys, we can't do it without you. [Applause]

All right. So, let's get to it because today we're going to tell our own story. But before we do that, I want to introduce to you Roberto Rodriguez. He currently serves as senior advisor to the President on education, but Roberto has a long history with Head Start. He served with Senator Edward Kennedy for many, many years, and really was a driving force behind the 2007 Head Start Reauthorization. Roberto

has always been a constant, constant supporter of Head Start; and even as he's moved on into the White House, he still is there, he's constant, he's sending our message about quality to the poorest children and families across this country. So, please give Roberto a warm Head Start welcome.

[Applause]