

June 2006 Los Angeles CRA Roundtable Speaker Bios

MELANIE STEPHENS

Centro Latino de Educacion

Ms. Stephens co-founded Centro Latino and served on the Board of Directors until joining the staff in 2003. As Executive Director, she is leading the organization's work to expand access to literacy and other essential skills among low-income Latinos. Ms. Stephens co-chaired the ESL – LEP (Limited English Proficiency) Taskforce of the Los Angeles Workforce Literacy Project and is currently chair of the California Native Language Literacy Task Force. In 2002, Ms. Stephens served as a consultant on organizational structure and processes, project development, and fundraising to Maternal and Child Health Access, Neighborhood Legal Services, and the UCLA Center for Healthier Children, Families and Communities. She has also been recognized for her 10 years of creative community development work at Esperanza Community Housing Corporation, especially the development of a public market and non-profit office project, Mercado La Paloma. Ms. Stephens has a Bachelor's Degree (Magna Cum Laude) in Social Studies from Harvard University. She spent a year studying economics, history and anthropology at the Universidad de las Américas in Cholula, Mexico on a Rotary Fellowship. In 1996, Ms. Stephens earned a Master in Business Administration degree from the University of California at Los Angeles. Ms. Stephens speaks and writes fluently in Spanish and French.

CAROLINE NEWSOM

Self-Employment Fund

iCapital Assistance Network

A ten-year veteran of the Self Employment Loan Fund, Caroline held positions as Business Manager and Communications Manager prior to the appointment of Executive Director in April of 2000. Caroline is a driving force for societal change,

not only because of her unbreakable faith, but because she comes from difficult beginnings. Her family struggled with poverty and the streets she walked on were not safe. She has been instrumental in creating business development opportunities for over five thousand women and minorities. She received an MBA at the Keller Graduate School of Management in 2006 and a B.A. in Business Finance, Magna Cum Laude, Waldorf College in 1999. She is a member of the Association of Enterprise Opportunity (AEO), the Arizona Micro Enterprise Alliance, and Visions World Productions, Inc.

ROBERTO BARRAGAN

Valley Economic Development Center (VEDC)

Pacoima Development Federal Credit Union

Mr. Barragan is President of VEDC where he manages the largest small business development non-profit organization in Metropolitan Los Angeles. With an annual budget of \$5 million and 65 employees in 12 offices, VEDC serves over 11,000 businesses yearly with financing, training and direct business assistance. Previously, as Vice President of Business Lending, Mr. Barragan managed a \$6 million Revolving Loan Fund established by the United States Economic Development Administration and \$2 million in Lending Programs consisting of commercial, small business and microloans from \$1,000 to \$700,000. With over 18 years experience managing non-profit organizations, including the last sixteen involved in community economic development, technical assistance to for-profit and non-profit entities and financial resource development, he is a nationally recognized expert on loan funds and micro-lending. Previous experience includes work in minority and non-minority owned businesses, startup company market strategy development, feasibility studies, financial evaluation, fund raising as well as development of non-profit coalitions. Roberto received an MBA from UC Berkeley in 1987 and a BA from Princeton University in 1984.

COOKE SUNOO

Asian Pacific Islander Small Business Program

Little Tokyo Service Center

Cooke is an original member of the Koreatown FDIC Roundtable and its Small Business Task Force. It is this group that developed the LA Loan Portal on whose board Cooke now serves. During the other hours of the day, Cooke is Director of the Asian Pacific Islander Small Business Program, a successful 7 year old collaborative project bringing together 5 of the oldest and the most respected Asian community groups in LA. The Program is an SBA Small Business Development Center and Women's Business Center.... they receive approximately half their funding from the SBA and the other from private donations and grants from banks and others. They will be sponsoring the Sixth Annual Asian Small Business Expo on September 30 and underwriting sponsors are always welcome!

JEAN LIM

Wilshire State Bank

Jean is Senior Vice President & Chief Compliance Officer at Wilshire State Bank in Los Angeles. She has more than twenty years experience in the banking field in the Los Angeles community. Prior to her current responsibilities she has served as BSA Officer, HR Manager, CRA Officer, Operations Administrator, Loan Officer, and originally as a teller. Jean is a graduate of Stanford University where she received a B.A. degree in History. She was born in Korea and was first educated in Hong Kong.

TIM HACKETT

Junior Achievement

Tim is Director of Development for Junior Achievement of Southern California, where he leads the fundraising efforts for Ventura, Santa Barbara, and San Luis Obispo Counties, as well as, Greater Pasadena, the San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valleys. In 2000 Tim found his professional calling when he went to work for Big Brothers Big Sisters in the development department. Since that time, Tim has worked for several non-profit organizations of varying sizes, but feels he has found his home with Junior Achievement. Tim recently completed the Developing Managerial Effectiveness course at Penn State University's Smeal College of Business. Prior to engaging in the field of literacy and education Tim was a professional musician, small business owner, history professor, and marketing professional.