

The 15th Annual Changing Suburbs Institute® Educational Forum  
*Meeting the Needs of Diverse Learners in the COVID-19 Era*  
virtual multi-day conference  
March 6 – March 13, 2021

**Saturday, March 6**

**10:00am**

**KEYNOTE ADDRESS:**

**Empowering Teachers and Multilingual Students in a Pandemic and Beyond**

Kristina Robertson, Colorín Colorado

*Workshop description:*

How do educators stay positive and redefine success while working with multilingual learners in a pandemic? Examples of cultural capital will be explored through multiple lenses to demonstrate how a strengths-based focus sustains educational communities during a pandemic and provides healing tools as schools “return to better.”

Presenter bio:

Kristina Robertson has 25 years of experience as a teacher and leader in the English Learner instructional field. She is currently the district English Learner program administrator for Roseville Public Schools in Minnesota, a small, suburban district with 60% students of color and over 60 languages represented. As the lead course developer for the American Federation of Teachers *English Learners (EL) 101* course, she has provided quality professional learning for educators across the nation. She has licenses in K-12 ESL, Reading, Administration, and Community Education Director. She earned her M.A. in TESOL from the School for International Training, Brattleboro, VT, and is pursuing her doctorate in educational leadership for diverse learning communities at Molloy College in New York. She is a writer and advisor for the Colorín Colorado website (a nationally recognized bilingual education site), a former WIDA trainer, and the lead change agent in her consulting business, the *English Learners Advocacy Network (ELadvocacy.com)*. Her dream is to create a system of equity in education for ELs through quality instruction and increased access to challenging learning opportunities.

