family and community engagement

APS Hosts *District Leaders Network on Family and Community Engagement* Learning Lab

On October 25, 2016, APS hosted a visit by the District Leaders Network on Family and Community Engagement as part of the the DC Learning Lab offered by the Institute for Educational Leadership. The group included staff and school leaders from 30 districts from around the nation.

We were thrilled to have this opportunity to showcase some of the work that the FACE office is currently shepherding, in collaboration with school-based and central office staff and leaders, to implement the FACE policy and strengthen our work in this area. Dr. Tara Nattrass, Assistant Superintendent of Instruction, opened the day with a welcome and introduction to Arlington Public Schools, which was followed by a panel showcasing our FACE strategy at the system level.

Moderating the panel was Kathleen Donovan, Parent Resource Center Coordinator, and the presenters were: Dr. Emma Violand-Sanchez, School Board Member; Theresa Bratt, Co- Chair, APS FACE Action Team; Gina Argotti, FACE Action Team parent member; and Dr. Rosa Briceno, FACE Specialist with Department of Instruction. Titled *Refocusing Family and Community Engagement Systemwide*, the panelists shared the story behind the FACE policy that APS adopted in September of 2014, and the progress we have made to date implementing the policy using as a compass the

Dual-Capacity Building Framework.

Afterwards, Dr. Briceño led an interactive panel showcasing some of the work that APS schools and programs are doing to re-focus family engagement using a new lens, informed by the research on high impact strategies for engaging diverse families.

The schools sharing their work were: **Claremont Immersion School**: Jessica Panfil, Principal; Haydee Colon, Bilingual Family Liaison; Ana Patricia Mogollon, Parent Leader; **Hoffman-Boston Elementary School**: Carmen De la Cruz, Assistant Principal, Carter Echols, Volunteer Coordinator, Zaya Coughlin, Parent Leader, *Sosorburam Ganbaatar, Parent;* **Wakefield High School:** Frances Lee, Assistant Principal, Roxy Coles-Matis, Special Education Teacher, Deena Allen, Parent; **Early Childhood Program**: Kate Graham, Pre-School Program Coordinator; Roxanda Ordoñez, Parent Leader.