



Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi Biography

For over thirty years, Dr. Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi has been involved with work to strengthen education and educational opportunity in America. As Assistant Vice Chancellor of Academic Research and Resources in Academic Affairs at the California State University System's Office of the Chancellor where she has served since 1989 primarily addressing issues of accountability, Hirano-Nakanishi recently coordinated the development of the Early Assessment of Readiness for College English and Mathematics, a joint project of California public schools and the California State University. To reduce testing time, to provide college preparatory eleventh graders with a timely gauge on their readiness for college work, and to ensure that college-going students enter higher education with baseline proficiencies, the CSU has developed short augmentations to the regular eleventh grade English and math tests that give students readings at the start of their senior year on whether they are ready for college level English and math. To assist twelfth grade teachers and thereby their students, professional development workshops, as well as twelfth grade English and math class syllabi, online tutorials, and other activities are being developed and implemented by CSU faculty in partnership with public school teachers. Hirano-Nakanishi also works to support public education as the CSU's representative to boards of WestEd, Far West Regional Laboratory, and Southwest Regional Laboratory.

Before entering higher educational administration, Dr. Hirano-Nakanishi was co-editor-in-chief of the *Harvard Educational Review* and a policy consultant and analyst on issues regarding educational finance reform, desegregation, language policy and K-12 attrition on projects financed by the National Institute of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, and the Carnegie Foundation. For the American Educational Research Association (AERA), Dr. Hirano-Nakanishi has served as chair of the 1992 Postsecondary Education Division Annual Program, as a member of the AERA Standing Committee on Special Interest Groups (1990-92), and as chair of the AERA *Ad Hoc* Committee on Minority Fellowships. More current professional activities include reviewing paper and grant proposals and being a member of the Publications Advisory Committee, the External Relations Standing Committee, and the Professional File Advisory Committee, as well the chair of the 1997 Institutional Effectiveness and Student Outcomes Program and Chair of the Higher Education Data Policy Committee, for the Association for Institutional Research (AIR), a faculty member at the AIR's first Enrollment Management Institute held at UC Santa Barbara in summer 2000, and co-chair for the 2001 AIR Forum Local Arrangements Committee.

For over twenty years, Hirano-Nakanishi has participated with the Harvard Club of Southern California through its alumni-schools function as an interviewer (1981-1989), as an area chair (1990-2000), as the Southern California alumni-schools statistician and database manager (2000-2002), and as the Southern California alumni-schools co-chair since 2002. In 2000, she was invited to serve on the national Schools Committee and University Relations Committee of the Harvard Alumni Association and has enjoyed working with others nationally in strengthening Harvard outreach, admission, and student life.

Hirano-Nakanishi has published on diversity in America and American education, chaired the Asian American Education Commission of the Los Angeles Unified School District, and been a panelist urging the need for the inclusion of diverse perspectives and peoples in the fabric of American life.

Marsha Hirano-Nakanishi is a graduate of Stanford University with a bachelor's of science degree in mathematics and holds a doctorate from Harvard University in social policy analysis. Hirano-Nakanishi's civic activities have included: the State Bar of California's Committee of Bar Examiners; the State Bar's Commission on Judicial Nominees Evaluation; the City of Los Angeles' Commission on the Status of Women; the Los Angeles YWCA Board of Directors; the United Way of Los Angeles' Strategic Planning Committee; the Harvard Graduate School of Education's Alumni Council; the Harvard Radcliffe Club of Southern California (board member and secretary).