

Tentative Agenda –
The 11th Tri-national Conference in Defense of Public Education: 20 years building alternatives to neoliberal politics in education. (Veinte años Construyendo alternativas a la agenda neoliberal).
Chicago, May 9-11, 2014

Friday, May 9

Daytime: School visits for participants from outside Chicago organized by the Chicago Teachers' Union.

Evening public event--Reports on the current status of public education in each of the three countries and experiences in building and rebuilding movements in support of public education.

Saturday, May 10

Sharing experiences and developing strategies through plenary sessions and workshops - Initial Plenary:

A) Influence of international organizations, corporations and foundations—OECD-PISA, World Bank, Gates, ALEC, Fraser Institute). Identifying and challenging the ideology behind corporate "reform" of education and privatization;

B) Evaluation of the 20 years of the Trinational Coalition in Defense of public education.

Workshops with content from each of the three countries:

- 1.- Standardized testing and teacher evaluation--its effects and campaigns in opposition.
- 2.- Higher education and precarious employment (part-time, non-permanent, casual call-in)
3. Student organizing on rights, funding and other student issues
- 4.- Alternative education programs and pedagogy

Indigenous education and preserving indigenous languages; teaching in minority communities

5.- Collective bargaining and improving teacher working conditions and student learning conditions; Building democratic, activist unions

6.- Technology and education

7.- Education funding and equity, (cutting funding, laying off teachers, and reducing benefits and pensions); Building links among teachers, parents and communities

Social event

Sunday, May 11

Stories of organizing and action such as:

The Chicago Teachers' Union organizing and strike

Garfield teachers (Seattle) refuse to give the standardized tests

The Milwaukee teachers in the aftermath of anti-union legislation

Mexican teachers movement opposing the PRI government education plan

Ontario teacher union campaigns against government actions

Connecting the dots: reports and proposals for tri-national action and solidarity

Conference declaration--A draft declaration will be sent to registered participants before the conference for feedback and suggestions