

**Sonia Nieto, Professor of Education
University of Massachusetts, Amherst**

"What Keeps Teachers Going?"

Abstract:

In this talk, Dr. Nieto presented on a year-long inquiry group in which she participated with a small group of Boston high school teachers. Her purpose in conducting this research was to explore what it is that keeps veteran teachers engaged, committed, and excited about teaching, especially in financially strapped urban schools. Dr. Nieto discussed the major findings of this study, enumerating a number of implications for teacher education, public schools, and public policy.

Personal Biography:

Sonia Nieto is Professor of Language, Literacy, and Culture in the School of Education, University of Massachusetts, Amherst. For over 36 years, she has taught students at all levels from elementary grades through graduate school. Her research focuses on multicultural education and on the education of Latinos, immigrants, and students of diverse cultural and linguistic backgrounds. Her books include *Affirming Diversity: The Sociopolitical Context of Multicultural Education* (4th ed., 2004), *The Light in Their Eyes: Creating Multicultural Learning Communities* (1999), *Puerto Rican Students in U.S. Schools*, an edited volume (2000), and *What Keeps Teachers Going?* (2003). She has also published dozens of book chapters and articles in such journals as *Educational Leadership*, *The Harvard Educational Review*, *Multicultural Education*, and *Theory into Practice*. She serves on several national advisory boards that focus on educational equity and social justice, including *Facing History and Ourselves* (FHAO) and *Educators for Social Responsibility* (ESR). She has received many awards for her scholarship, advocacy, and activism, including the 1989 Human and Civil Rights Award from the Massachusetts Teachers Association, the 1996 Teacher of the Year Award from the Hispanic Educators of Massachusetts, and the 1997 Multicultural Educator of the Year Award from NAME, the National Association for Multicultural Education. She was an Annenberg Institute Senior Fellow (1998-2000) and she received an honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters from Lesley College in Cambridge, Massachusetts in May 1999. In 2000, she was awarded a month-long residency at the Bellagio Center in Italy. More recently, she was named to the *Crícas* Journal Hall of Fame as the 2003 Spanish-Language Community Advocate of the Year. She is married to Angel Nieto, a former teacher and author of children's books, and they have two daughters and eight grandchildren.