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## *From a 2004 MDTP Teacher Institute Participant...*

**Emiliano Gomez, UC Berkeley MDTP Site Director**

The MDTP Teacher Institute was held at UCLA this summer from August 8 through 12. Teachers from all over California came for what turned out to be a feast of professional development, interesting conversations, and (what we hope to be) the beginning of long-lasting collegial relations. Oh, yes, and good food.

As one of the newest site directors, I had never attended an MDTP Teacher Institute, so I signed up as a participant. It was a wonderful learning experience in a very friendly and professional atmosphere. There were presentations, discussions, and workshops led by Barbara Wells (UCLA), Alfred Manaster (UC San Diego) and John Sarli (CSU San Bernardino). Among other themes, we discussed general information about the project, analysis of class reports, aspects of low-stakes diagnostic assessment, presentations about MDTP, test development (including field testing and data analysis) and written response materials (including creation of items, usage, grading and rubrics).

One of the most valuable activities was the assignment of small group presentations about some aspects of the project. Each group was free to choose the topics and structure of the presentation they designed. This resulted in very productive collaborations and gave us an opportunity to get to know each other better.

The long-term goal of the Teacher Institute is to encourage all teachers to administer our tests in a low-stakes setting to obtain a true, accurate description of their students'

strengths and weaknesses in various topics. And then, of course, to look carefully at the class reports so they can make informed decisions about their teaching and curricula.

This is an ambitious objective. We hope that the participants of our Teacher Institutes will lead their colleagues by example and by advocating for good uses of our materials. We also hope that they will help us by making presentations about MDTP and their experiences at our Users' Conferences and other professional development opportunities.

If you are an experienced user of MDTP materials and/or a leader in your department, and if you are interested in collaborating with our project, then you are the very reason for the existence of our Teacher Institutes! Call your nearest site if you think you would like to join us for the next one.

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## *Student Letters Now in Spanish by Request*

We are pleased to announce that a recent update of our scoring software now allows teachers to request the student letters (that are included in the teacher report) in Spanish. Some sites had requested the student letters be available in Spanish as well as English for students whose parents do not read English. The new software includes a Spanish version of the individual student letter as an added report. If you would like to have the student letters in Spanish then please include a note requesting them when you return your answer sheets for scoring. Your site will then print the Spanish letters in addition to the English letters and return both to you. You will then determine which version(s) you want to distribute to your students and their parents.

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