

IN FOCUS: FAMILY INVOLVEMENT - INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM**October 24, 2007****Speaker Bios****DR. ROBERT SEXTON**

Executive Director

The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence

Robert F. Sexton has been the executive director of the Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence since its creation in 1983. A Louisville native, he has also been the deputy director of the Kentucky Council on Higher Education, an administrator at the University of Kentucky, and a professor of history.

A graduate of Yale University, Sexton earned his Ph.D. in history from the University of Washington. He was a Visiting Scholar at Harvard University and at the Annenberg Institute for School Reform at Brown University. He has been recognized widely for his efforts to improve public education, receiving the Charles A. Dana Award for Pioneering Achievement and honorary degrees from Berea College, Georgetown College, and Eastern Kentucky University. Dr. Sexton serves on numerous boards, including the Kentucky Long-Term Policy Research Center, the School Curriculum, Assessment and Accountability Council, and the New Opportunity School for Women. He was a founding board member of the Kentucky Institute for Education Research and served on the Governor's Task Force on Early Childhood.

At the national level Sexton serves the boards of Editorial Projects in Education (publishers of *Education Week* and *Teacher Magazine*), the Education Trust, and the Consortium for Policy Research in Education. He has served on advisory groups for the BellSouth, Danforth, and Ford foundations and for the Public Education Network (PEN). He was a member of the Saguaro Seminar on civic engagement sponsored by Harvard University. He is the author of *Mobilizing Citizens for Better Schools*, published in early 2004 by Teachers College Press of Columbia University.

Dr. Sexton lives in Lexington with his wife, Pam Papka Sexton. They have five grown children; all attended Kentucky public schools.

ALICIA NARVAEZ

Virtual Pre-K Director

Chicago Public Schools Office of Early Childhood Education

Virtual Pre-K Initiative

Alicia Narvaez is Director of Virtual Pre-K, a bilingual family involvement initiative developed by the Chicago Public Schools' Office of Early Childhood Education. Ms. Narvaez is responsible for the program's development and implementation in Chicago and with national partners in Texas, California, Pennsylvania, and Nevada.

Through Ms. Narvaez's work, Virtual Pre-K has been integrated into a diverse array of early childhood programs including State Pre-kindergarten, *Head Start*, Child-Parent Centers (Title 1), Parent Information Resource Centers, Migrant Education, and Family Literacy. She conducts workshops and professional development sessions for parents, teachers, administrators, and public school officials in a variety of settings.

Ms. Narvaez holds a bachelor's degree from Columbia University and earned her master's degree in public administration from Baruch College as a National Urban Fellow.

BEVERLY N. RAIMONDO

Center for Parent Leadership Director
The Prichard Committee for Academic Excellence
Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership

Bev Raimondo is responsible for the Prichard Committee's community and parent engagement initiatives. Since passage of the Kentucky Education Reform Act in 1990, Bev has created and managed a network of professional staff to organize over 60 Community Committees for Education, in over 90 Kentucky school districts, to support education reform. She developed a dialogue process, *Parents and Teachers Talking Together*, which reached over 12,000 participants since 1994. This process is incorporated in the Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership that she created in 1997. Today she continues to direct the Commonwealth Institute for Parent Leadership, through which over 1,500 parents have received training.

In April 2002, Bev founded the Center for Parent Leadership (CPL). As a mission-based consulting unit of the Prichard Committee, CPL works to improve student achievement by engaging parents to become decision-making partners in public schools through providing consulting, technical support, workshops, seminars, and curriculum outside Kentucky.

A native of Lexington, KY, she is a graduate of the University of Kentucky with a B.S. degree in Education and an M.S. in Library Science.