

ROBERT COTTO, JR. ED.M., M.A.

CURRICULUM VITAE

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

June 2005 – May 2014 **Trinity College**, Hartford, CT
M.A. in American Studies
May 2013 *Thesis*: Challenging Americanization: Puerto Rican Teachers in the 1904 Summer School at Harvard & Cornell, *Advisor*: Eugene E. Leach, Ph.D.

June 2003 – June 2004 **Harvard Graduate School of Education**, Cambridge, MA
Ed.M. in Teaching and Learning, Teacher Education Program (TEP)

September 1999 – June 2003 **Dartmouth College**, Hanover, NH
A.B. in Sociology, Minor in Education and Human Development

TEACHING

September 2014 – present **Lecturer and Director of Urban Educational Initiatives, Trinity College**
Educational Studies, ED350: Teaching and Learning (Spring 2015)

January 2014 – May 2014 **Lecturer, Central Connecticut State University**
EDF 500: Contemporary Educational Issues

June 2004 – June 2011 **Social Studies Teacher, Metropolitan Learning Center (MLC)
Capitol Region Education Council (CREC)**, Hartford, CT

July 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008 **Lead Instructor, Saint Joseph/CREC Summer Institute
Saint Joseph College**, West Hartford, CT

September 2003 – May 2004 **Student Teacher/Intern, Harvard GSE Teacher Education Program
Cambridge Rindge and Latin School**, Cambridge, MA

ARTICLES, CHAPTERS, PROJECTS, AND REPORTS

Choice Watch: Access and Diversity in Connecticut's School Choice Programs. New Haven, CT: Connecticut Voices for Children, April 2014.

The Governor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2014-15 Budget: The Impact on Children. (with staff at CT Voices for Children) New Haven, CT: Connecticut Voices for Children, February 2013. <http://www.ctvoices.org/publications/governors-proposed-fiscal-year-2014-15-budget-impact-children>.

Providing Educational Opportunity for Every Child. New Haven, CT: Connecticut Voices for Children, September 2012. <http://www.ctvoices.org/publications/providing-educational-opportunity-every-child>.

Making Sense of the Vertical Scales: An Alternative View of the Connecticut Mastery Test Results. New Haven, CT: Connecticut Voices for Children, July 2012. <http://www.ctvoices.org/publications/making-sense-vertical-scales-alternative-view-connecticut-mastery-test-results>.

Understanding Connecticut's Application for a Waiver from the No Child Left Behind Act. New Haven, CT: Connecticut Voices for Children, April 2012. <http://www.ctvoices.org/publications/understanding-connecticuts-application-waiver-no-child-left-behind-act>.

The Limits of Data on Free and Reduced Price Meal Eligibility in Connecticut. New Haven, CT: Connecticut Voices for Children, March 2012. <http://www.ctvoices.org/publications/limits-data-free-and-reduced-price-meal-eligibility-connecticut>.

The Governor's Proposed Fiscal Year 2013 Budget: The Impact on Children. (with staff at CT Voices for Children) New Haven, CT: Connecticut Voices for Children, February 2012. <http://www.ctvoices.org/publications/governors-proposed-fiscal-year-2013-budget-impact-children>.

Addition through Subtraction: Are rising test scores in Connecticut related to the exclusion of students with Disabilities? New Haven, CT: Connecticut Voices for Children, January 2012. <http://www.ctvoices.org/publications/addition-through-subtraction-are-rising-test-scores-connecticut-school-districts-relate>.

“Our Priorities.” (In the K-12 education issue area) Connecticut Voices for Children. Last modified 2011. <http://www.ctvoices.org/issue-areas/education>.

“More choice, mixed results.” *Hartford Courant*, July 10, 2011, http://articles.courant.com/2011-07-10/news/hc-stevn-adamowski-hartford-superinte20110710_1_achievement-gap-student-test-scores-system-accountability.

“Hartford's Claim of School Success Flawed.” *Hartford Courant*, March 1, 2011, http://articles.courant.com/2011-03-01/news/hc-op-cotto-hartford-schools-0301-20110301_1_test-scores-proficiency-rates-students.

“The Coqui's Call.” In *Mi Voz, Mi Vida: Latino College Students Tell Their Stories*, edited by Andrew Garrod, Christina Gómez, and Robert Kilkenny, 148-166. Ithaca, New York: Cornell University Press, 2007.

PRESENTATIONS AND PANELS

“Critical Conversations on Education Reform.” Invited panelist, Panel on Common Core State Standards, Testing, Race to the Top, NCLB Waivers, and SBAC. Central Connecticut State University, New Britain, CT, March 29, 2014.

“Community Dialogue.” Invited panelist, “American Promise” special event movie discussion, Real Art Ways, Hartford, CT, December 15, 2013.”

“Harnessing Diversity’s Potential: Employing Student-Centered Learning and Technology to Achieve Equity and to Build 21st Century Skills.” Panel moderator, Where Integration Meets Innovation: Creating, Sustaining, and Improving Dynamic & Diverse Public Schools for the 21st Century Conference, Hartford, CT, November 8, 2013.

“Brown v. Board of Education for a New Generation: Educators, Parents, Activists and Civil Rights Lawyers Closing the Opportunity Gap in Greater Hartford.” Invited panelist, Introductory Panel for Where Integration Meets Innovation: Creating, Sustaining, and Improving Dynamic & Diverse Public Schools for the 21st Century Conference, Hartford, CT, November 8, 2013.

“School Reform in Hartford, CT.” Invited panelist for post-lecture discussion, “School Reform (?) - A Talk By Anthony Cody,” Connecticut College, New London, CT, October 24, 2013.

“Ideas Worth Spreading About Education, Democracy, and Progress.” Invited presentation, TEDx CCSU (Central Connecticut State University), New Britain, CT, October 23, 2013.

“Creating a Dual-Language Magnet School for the Hartford Region.” Invited panelist, discussion and panel organized by Prof. Jack Dougherty and Prof. Andrea Dyrness of Trinity College, Hartford, CT, April 13, 2013.

“*Social Justice Teach-In Workshop on Policy-Driven Advocacy.*” Invited presentation with Sarah Esty and Kenny Feder, High School in the Community, New Haven, CT, January 18, 2013.

“Understanding Connecticut’s Waiver to Parts of the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.” Invited presentation, Sheff Coalition regular meeting, Hartford, CT, June 16, 2012.

“Claiming space and finding voice in higher education.” Invited guest for class discussion, *Latinas/os in Education* course with Prof. Andrea Dyrness of Trinity College, April 19, 2010 and April 23, 2012.

“The Demographics of School Choice.” Invited presentation, A People’s Forum: Alternative Solutions for School Reform in Connecticut, CT, Connecticut Parent Power, New Britain, CT, April 14, 2012.

“*Addition Through Subtraction: Are rising test scores in Connecticut school districts related to the exclusion of students with disabilities?*” Invited presentation, A Call to Action to Eliminate a Preventable Contributor to the Achievement Gap: Childhood Lead Poisoning, Foundation for Educational Advancement, Hartford, CT, March 7, 2012.

“Recalculating School Reform in Hartford, Connecticut.” Paper presentation for panel on quantitative data research, Harvard Graduate School of Education Alumni of Color Conference, Cambridge, MA, March 4, 2011.

“Teaching in public schools.” Invited panelist, Rockefeller Brothers Fund Foundation, New York, NY, August 2005 and 2008.

“Excerpts from ‘A Coqui’s Call’ in *Mi Voz, Mi Vida*.” Invited speaker, *La Paloma Sabanera* Coffee Shop and Bookstore, Hartford, CT, May 2007.

“The Effects of the No Child Left Behind law on Public Schools.” Invited panelist, Dartmouth College, NH, November 2006.

ADVOCACY

Connecticut Latino and Puerto Rican Affairs Commission. “*Testimony Regarding Bilingual Education in Connecticut*.” Special hearing, January 29, 2014.
<http://www.cga.ct.gov/lprac/docs/2014/PublicHearings/012914/TestimonyRobertCottoJr12914.pdf>

Connecticut State Board of Education. “*Testimony Regarding the Release of New Charter School Applications*.” Regular meeting, May 1, 2013.
http://www.ctvoices.org/sites/default/files/050113_stateboe_charterapplicationrelease.pdf.

Connecticut General Assembly. Education Committee. “*Testimony Regarding Student Assessment*.” Hearing on H.B. 6623, 2013 sess., March 15, 2013.
http://www.ctvoices.org/sites/default/files/031513_education_hb6623_studentsassessments.pdf.

Connecticut General Assembly. Education Committee. “*Testimony Regarding Community Schools*.” Hearing on S.B. 1002, 2013 sess., March 4, 2013.
http://www.ctvoices.org/sites/default/files/030413_education_sb1002_communityschools.pdf.

Connecticut General Assembly. Appropriations Committee. “*Testimony Regarding the Proposed Budget for the Department of Education and the Educational Cost Sharing Grant*.” Hearing on H.B. 6350, 2013 sess., February 21, 2013.
http://www.ctvoices.org/sites/default/files/022113_approps_hb6350_sdebudget_ecs.pdf.

Connecticut General Assembly. Education Committee. *“Testimony Regarding the Educational Cost Sharing Grant.”* Hearing on H.B. 6357, 2013 sess., February 15, 2013.
http://www.ctvoices.org/sites/default/files/021513_%20education_hb6357_ecs.pdf.

“Policy Agenda for 2013.” (In K-12 education issue area) Connecticut Voices for Children. Last modified January 2013. <http://www.ctvoices.org/advocacy/policy-agenda>.

Connecticut General Assembly. Achievement Gap Task Force. *“Letter to the Achievement Gap Task Force Summarizing Key Findings of Vertical Scales Report.”* October 24, 2012.

Connecticut General Assembly. Task Force on English Language Learners. *“Recommendations to Task Force on English Language Learners.”* April 5, 2012.
<http://www.ctvoices.org/sites/default/files/files/blog/edu12RecsELLTaskForce.pdf>.

Connecticut General Assembly. Education Committee. *“Testimony Regarding S.B. 24: An Act Concerning Educational Competitiveness (District Management, Alternative Schools, and School-Based Health Centers).”* Hearing on S.B. 24, 2012 sess., February 22, 2012.
http://www.ctvoices.org/sites/default/files/022212_education_sb24_distmgmt.pdf.

Connecticut General Assembly. Education Committee. *“Testimony Regarding S.B. 24: An Act Concerning Educational Competitiveness (Teacher Evaluation Provisions).”* Hearing on S.B. 24, 2012 sess., February 21, 2012.
http://www.ctvoices.org/sites/default/files/022112_education_sb24_teachereval.pdf.

Connecticut General Assembly. Achievement Gap Task Force. *“Testimony in Response to the Achievement Gap Task Force Call for High-Leverage Strategies to Address the Opportunity Gap in Connecticut.”* January 9, 2012.
http://www.ctvoices.org/sites/default/files/010912_achgaptf_achgapstrategies.pdf.

AWARDS, RESEARCH, AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT GRANTS

August 2012 – January 2014 **Anonymous Donors**
Awarded grant for “Choice Watch” research project at Connecticut Voices for Children to analyze school choice data in Connecticut and prepare a series of reports.

April 2008 **National Education Association (NEA)**, Washington, D.C.
Selected for a one-week long Magna Carta and Human Rights curriculum-writing workshop in Grantham and London, UK.

- March – April 2005 **iEARN – USA**, New York, NY and **U.S. State Department**, Washington, D.C. Selected for three-week long educational exchange program in Cairo, Egypt with the iEARN – USA (International Education and Resource Network). Supervised four students studying in Egypt at Modern Education Schools in New Cairo, Egypt. Observed education practices of Egyptian public and private schools. (All expenses)
- 2002 – 2007 **Rockefeller Brothers Fund Fellowship for Aspiring Teachers of Color**
- December 2002 **Inter-Ethnic Friendship and Moral Development Project**, Hanover, NH Selected as one of four research assistants for two projects under the direction of Professor Andrew Garrod in Bosnia and Herzegovina to interview children and adolescents regarding their inter-ethnic friendships and moral development.
- January 2002 – March 2002 **Dartmouth Partners in Community Service**, Hanover, NH

LEADERSHIP

- Nov. 2013 – Apr. 2014 **Co-Chair, Superintendent Search Committee**, Hartford Board of Education
- 2012 – 2014 **Policy Committee Chair and Secretary**, Hartford Board of Education
- 2009 – 2011 **Ninth Grade Team Leader**, Metropolitan Learning Center
- 2008 – 2009 **Mentor and Cooperating Teacher**, Metropolitan Learning Center

BLOG POSTS

“What We Don’t Know About CT Graduation Rates: 5 Questions.” *Cities, Suburbs, and Schools Project*, June 24, 2014.

<http://commons.trincoll.edu/cssp/2014/06/24/what-we-dont-know-about-ct-graduation-rates-5-questions/>.

Brescia, Michael; **Cotto, Jr.; Robert**, Parker; Beth; and Stallings, Craig. “Meet Hartford’s Board of Education Candidates, 2013.” Edited by Kerri Provost. *Real Hartford*, September 26, 2013, <http://www.realhartford.org/2013/09/26/meet-hartfords-board-of-education-candidates-2013/>.

“Who is responsible for children’s success?” *Voices Speaking*, Connecticut Voices for Children Blog, February 4, 2013, <http://www.ctvoices.org/blog/20130204/whos-responsible-childrens-success>.

“Apples and Oranges: Comparing Charters, Magnets and Towns.” *Voices Speaking*, Connecticut Voices for Children Blog, April 26, 2012, <http://www.ctvoices.org/blog/20120426/apples-and-oranges-comparing-charters-magnets-and-towns>.

“Improving the Participation of English Language Learners in Magnet and Charter Schools.” *Voices Speaking*, Connecticut Voices for Children Blog, April 11, 2012, <http://www.ctvoices.org/blog/20120411/improving-participation-english-language-learners-magnet-and-charter-schools>.

“Crow Roost in Hartford May Be A Result of Urban Sprawl.” *Urban Compass*, January 9, 2009, <http://urbancompass.net/?p=1675>.

“Civic, Business Leaders in Hartford Urge Speed in Planning Rail.” *Urban Compass*, December 10, 2008, <http://urbancompass.net/?p=1554>.

“Panel on Preparation of Hartford Students Calls for More Engagement.” *Urban Compass*, December 4, 2008, <http://urbancompass.net/?p=1551>.