

**PRESIDENT'S LUNCHEON**

By Ticket Only

**12:00 – 1:00 pm** *Hilton International Ballroom*

**FRIDAY PLENARY**

Open to All Conference Attendees

**1:00 – 2:00 pm** *Hilton International Ballroom*

**Separating Difference from Disability**

*Catherine Collier, Director of Cross Cultural Developmental Education Services*



A growing number of students from diverse racial, cultural and linguistic backgrounds have unique learning needs as they acquire English and adapt to the culture of the American educational system. Among this diverse population of students are at-risk learners and learners with a variety of disabilities. Both classroom and clinical personnel are challenged as they adapt procedures and instruction to meet the educational needs of these diverse learners. The challenges facing both special and general education professionals working with diverse learners with learning and behavior problems, particularly language minority students, are ones that many teacher training programs do not address. Dr. Collier provides an introduction to resolving the basic question of whether the presenting problem is due to language difference or language disorder.

Dr. Collier has over 40 years experience in cross-cultural, bilingual, and special education. She worked with the BUENO Center for Multicultural Education, Research, and Evaluation at the University of Colorado, Boulder, where she created and directed the Bilingual Special Education Curriculum/Training project (BISECT), a nationally recognized effort. She was also the director of a teacher-training program for the University of Alaska, preparing Yup'ik Eskimo paraprofessionals for certification as bilingual preschool, elementary, and special educators. She has authored several books and articles on cross-cultural and multilingual special education and works extensively with school districts on professional and program development for at-risk diverse learners.