

# **State of Education in Los Angeles III: Race & Gender in Education**

**February 20, 2008  
Los Angeles Marriott Downtown**

**Honorable Mónica García, Board President, Los Angeles Unified School District**

**Maria Brenes, Executive Director, Inner City Struggle**

**Sharon Harrison, Harbor Area Board Member, United Teachers of Los Angeles**

**Santiago Jackson, Assistant Superintendent, Division of Adult and Career Education,**

**Los Angeles Unified School District**

**Moderator: Adolfo Guzman-Lopez of KPCC**

The panelists addressed a number of issues, revolving around race, gender and class, which affect educational outcomes across various communities. The panelists agreed the current state of the educational system is broken and as stated by Honorable Mónica García “the crisis in classrooms must be addressed. All the panelists agreed the education system must be repaired, although tension surfaced on which issues to resolve first and what the best methods to resolve such issues are.

From a community based perspective, Maria Brenes, Executive Director of Inner City Struggle, offered a community based perspective on how to resolve the education crisis. Ms. Brenes focused on the needs for students in the Eastside community of Los Angeles. She stated students in this particular community are divided by race and income and experience isolation in comparison to students in more affluent communities. Honorable Mónica García, Board President of the Los Angeles Unified School Board, spoke to similar issues about race and class while stressing tools and resources provided to students to achieve success must be dispersed amongst all students equally.