ABSTRACT

The Common Core State Standards and the Next Generation Science Standards represent a sea change in standards-based reform in education. Not only do they represent clearer, more rigorous expectations for 21st century knowledge and skills that students need to succeed in college and careers, but they also call for an unprecedented degree the critical role of language in gaining and demonstrating such knowledge and skills. A key educational equity challenge that lies ahead is to ensure that the nation’s 6 million English Language Learners (ELLs) are amply supported to master these discipline-specific language practices and uses while learning academic content. This symposium highlights the approaches and lessons learned to date of a major national initiative to build the capacity of educators and educational systems to address this critical challenge.