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**Hilda Maldonado** is executive director of the Multilingual and Multicultural Education Department of the Los Angeles Unified School District. She focuses on systemic changes that accelerate the learning and academic success of students who speak languages other than English upon enrolling in school. Before she assumed her current position four years ago, she was director of elementary and early education schools. During her career with the school district she has also worked as a bilingual teacher, a bilingual coordinator, an advisor in the Language Acquisition Branch, an assistant principal and a principal at two schools, Hillside Elementary and Gates Elementary. She was recently awarded a Stanton Fellowship from the Durfee Foundation to explore multilingualism as an asset in Los Angeles.