

# Daniello Garma Balón, Ph.D.

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## BIOGRAPHY — *educator, consultant, speaker, facilitator*



Since 1991, Dr. Balón has served as consultant, speaker, and facilitator for colleges, school systems, community- and faith-based organizations, *Fortune 500* companies, and youth groups across the country on topics such as: diversity awareness, cultural competence, social justice, intergroup dialogue, cross-cultural leadership, trainer/facilitator effectiveness, leadership capacity, organization development, group dynamics, and teambuilding. Dan is founder and president of the *Barkada Consulting Network*, a social change organization that empowers difference-makers to build effective, inclusive, and caring communities. He has worked closely with professionals, teachers, and students to bridge the gaps that exist among knowledge, understanding, and application. Dan also has extensive experience in leading training and development programs that have served groups as diverse as elementary school teachers and parents, management consultants, business executives, engineering faculty/graduate teaching assistants, and college resident advisors.

Dan is an experienced facilitator and trainer for dialogues and diversity education workshops that empower leaders, build positive communities, and address social injustice. At the University of Maryland, he helped administer the nationally known *Words of Engagement: An Intergroup Dialogue Program*. There he conceptualized the innovative workshop series, “Social Justice from Classroom to Community.” Dan recently helped establish and then directed the University of Maryland’s Office of Multicultural Involvement & Community Advocacy. He is a *Social Justice Training Institute* (SJTI) alumnus and certified to interpret the *Myers-Briggs Type Indicator*® (MBTI®).



Dan has extensive work experience in higher education and K-12 environments across varied teaching, academic, and student affairs functional areas. He has worked in the non-profit sector—with *MOSAICA: The Center for Nonprofit Development and Pluralism* and as a training consultant partner with the *Corporation for National and Community Service*. Dan currently serves as Director of Diversity & Equity in the Burlington School District, Vermont’s most racially/ethnically diverse public school system. In January 2010, he established the Equity Office for Employment and Retention to lead the school district’s efforts to recruit, hire, and retain diverse, culturally competent teachers, staff, and senior administrators. He is also adjunct faculty at Drexel University’s Graduate School of Education.

He was born in Quezon City, Philippines, and immigrated to his childhood home in the San Francisco Bay Area when he was 10 months old. A West Coast romantic, Dan received his Bachelor’s degree in Sociology-Organizational Studies from the University of California at Davis and earned his Master’s (College Student Personnel) and Doctoral (Education Policy and Leadership) degrees at the University of Maryland.

Dan loves reading nearly anything, especially baseball history; craves home-cooked Filipino food; and stumbles at parent-child negotiation with his two spunky daughters, Emma Rose and Caitlin. He currently resides in Shelburne, Vermont.

## SELECTED RECENT PROFESSIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

- Partnered recently with Bucknell Univ., College of Notre Dame of Maryland, Latin American Montessori Bilingual School, North Carolina State Univ., Salisbury Univ., Shelter Network, and United Methodist Church, among others.
- Published articles on social justice education (*About Campus*, 2008), multicultural organizations (*Journal of College Student Development*, 2005); higher education diversity initiatives (*Multicultural Education*, 2004); and Asian Pacific American leadership development (*National Clearinghouse for Leadership Programs*, 2003; *NASPA NetResults*, 2005).
- Served as a major speaker at the 2006 *National Conference on Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education*.
- Recipient of the *Rebecca Williams Commitment to Social Change Award* at the University of Maryland, College Park.
- Inducted as *honoris causa* member into *Omicron Delta Kappa*, national leadership honor society.