

## **Learning Together in A Special Place: Perspectives on Leadership**

Mercatello sul Metauro, Italy

Organized by Angela Ferrario

International Study Tours, LLC

**June 24 - 29, 2017**

### **Expanding Our Leadership Capabilities Through Collaboration, Exploration and Reflection**

Raymond Isola, Program Director for Green Schoolyards America

Principals' Institute and Jim Cummins, Professor Emeritus at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education, University of Toronto, co-authors of soon to be published **Shared Leadership and Urban Education Reform: The Story of Sanchez School**

<http://isolaleadership.com/>.

During this week, we will focus on developing a shared vision of leadership as advocates for social justice in school communities. This vision of leadership will be explored based on the common and diverse personal and professional experiences of the facilitators as well their soon to be published book entitled: *Shared Leadership and Urban Education Reform: The Story of Sanchez School*. This book draws on a 20-year collaboration between a school principal (Raymond) and an educational researcher (Jim) to explore issues of educational equity while documenting how one school successfully implemented evidence-based initiatives to accelerate student achievement.

Our collaboration, explorations and reflections will focus on examining the spectrum of evidence-based leadership strategies that support student and adult learning, versus evidence-free ideologies that maintain the status quo.

This examination of leadership will be highly interactive with an emphasis on identity development for students, teachers, parents as co-educators and principals. Participants will be invited to view effective leadership as a process of creating interpersonal spaces within the school that expand the opportunities for teachers, students, and parents/caregivers to grow into 'identities of competence. Together we will explore what this might mean in practical terms in a variety of educational contexts.



**Jim Cummins** is a Professor Emeritus at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education/University of Toronto. Jim is the author of many books and articles related to issues of educational equity. He has co-authored his two most recent books, ***Big Ideas for Expanding Minds: Teaching English Language Learners Across the Curriculum*** (Rubicon/Pearson, 2015) and ***Shared Leadership and Shared Leadership and Urban Education Reform: The Story of Sanchez School*** (Caslon, 2017). His research has focused on how to teach English language learners effectively.



**Raymond Isola** has 35 years experience working in California public schools as a bilingual teacher and principal, from preschool to the university levels. He received the Golden Bell Award from The California School Board Association for significantly increasing high school graduation and university rates for migrant farmworker students. He is currently Program Director for Green Schoolyards America Principals' Institute that offers professional development opportunities for school principals engaged in greening their schoolyards in the San Francisco Bay Area. He is the co-author of ***Shared Leadership and Urban Education Reform: The Story of Sanchez School*** (Caslon, 2017) with Jim Cummins.