



**Elizabeth Jiménez Salinas** grew up bilingual in English and Spanish, and began her teaching career with a CA Multiple Subjects teaching credential and a Bilingual/Cross-Cultural Specialist Credential. She earned a BA in Spanish from CSU Fullerton with coursework at *La Universidad Juárez del Estado de Durango*, and *La Universidad Iberoamericana*, DF, México.

She was recruited to serve as Legislative Aide to Assemblymember Peter Chacón in the California State Legislature, pioneering Bilingual Education legislation K-12. Elizabeth helped the Department of Education launch bilingual education in the public schools of Puerto Rico through the *Escuela de idiomas de Puerto Rico*. Elizabeth is a founding member of Californians Together the coalition that developed the State Seal of Biliteracy. She then worked with the State of Hawai'i to institute the Hawaii State Seal of Biliteracy. She has taught bilingual first, second, and third grade bilingual classes, as well as University-level methods class, Foundations of Spanish Reading at CSU Los Angeles, and currently methods courses at the University of Hawai'i, Manoa.

Elizabeth earned an MBA from Claremont Graduate University while working in the US Educational Textbook Publishing arena. She left the business as Western Regional Vice President at Pearson in 2000 and started her own company, where she has provided professional development and consulted with, and written materials for all major US Educational publishers. For six years she served as a contract lobbyist in Sacramento working the State Board of Education and the Legislature. Elizabeth has been contracted with all of the major school districts in California, New York, New Jersey, Texas, and a number of small rural districts as well. She has written and published children's books in Spanish including her best known, LALO. Elizabeth has developed a PBL project to teach secondary EL to write, publish and market children's books. She contributed to the research study, Reparable Harm regarding Long Term English Learners in middle and high school level. Elizabeth is an appointed member of the Superintendent's Multilingual Policy Advisory Committee.

The company name GEMAS means 'gems' in Spanish and is made up of the initials of Jiménez's five children Gabriela, Eduardo, Maria, Alexandra and Salvador.