* Bellasanta Ferrer, a former geologist, has been a middle school science teacher at Haines Elementary in Chinatown, Chicago since 2012. She served CPS as a school-based mathematics and science lead teacher from 2003 to 2012 and taught high school algebra from 2008 to 2010. Prior CPS, she taught regular and gifted mathematics at the Ateneo De Manila University Grade School Department and was its Research, Program Development, and Evaluation Center's Coordinator.
* Bellasanta received her B.S. in Geology from the University of the Philippines. As part of the AUSL’s first cohort, she earned her MAT in Elementary Education, with middle school endorsements in mathematics, general science, and physical science, from National Louis University in 2003. In 2007, she achieved National Board Certification in Early Adolescence Mathematics, and high school algebra certification in the following year. In 2009, Loyola University Chicago conferred her with a Ph.D. in Research Methodology for her study on the mathematics and science growth trajectories of high-ability high school students using hierarchical linear modeling. Bellasanta received ESL approval and a M.Ed. in Instructional Leadership from the University of Illinois Chicago for completing the Transforming Literacy, Science, and Math through Participatory Action Research program, in 2012.
* In 2004, Bellasanta was selected to be a Boeing/Loyola Scholar to take six Middle School Endorsement courses and attend the week-long U.S. Space Camp at Huntsville, Alabama. Bellasanta likewise participated in the Northwestern University’s 2005 MKITS Bioscience Inquiry Collaborative programs. She developed “Engineering a Healthier Lifestyle,” a module for Grades 5-8 as part of IIT’s RET Corps of Educators 2005 Summer Program. Her collaboration with artists from Columbia College’s Transforming Education through the Arts and Media Program since 2012 allowed her students to animate their PSAs on infectious diseases and to create infographics on digital device footprints. This year, 2014, Bellasanta is in the first cohort of the MSU-WIPRO Urban STEM & Leadership Fellowship program.
* Bellasanta, a native of the Philippines, has lived in Chicago, Illinois since 2001.

