



**Meet Dr. Joel Domingo**  
**Member of OEO's Parent Advisory Committee (PAC)**

***Q. Tell us a little about your background***

**A.** I am a long time Seattle resident (41 years) and a product of the Seattle School District system (Ravenna Elementary, Eckstein Middle School, Roosevelt High School). I have a Bachelor's degree in Psychology, a Master's Degree in Theology, and a Doctor of Education in Educational Leadership.

I have spent most of my professional career in education and/or the nonprofit environment, and prior to that was involved in the corporate world. Most of the work that I have done in the community focuses on issues related to education, both K-12 and higher education, leadership development, and civic engagement.

Currently, I serve as the co-Vice President of the Seattle Special Education PTSA and on the board of Puget Sound Chi Alpha as well as the Professional Advisory Board of Argosy University Seattle.

I have been married to my wife Debby for 18 years and have two children, Izabella and Rafael, both of whom attend schools in the Seattle School District.

***Q. How did you become involved in the OEO's Parent Advisory Council and why?***

**A.** Serendipity is probably the best word that I would use to describe how I got involved in the PAC. One of my colleagues in Special Education couldn't make a PAC meeting and asked me to fill in for her. Little did I know that much of my background and interests were an exact match for what the PAC does and so it was an easy decision to get involved.

***Q. Why is OEO important?***

**A.** One aspect of my research involved looking into the dynamic of parent, community, and school relationships. Research suggests that these linkages are critical not just for the academic success of students, but also for the betterment of our schools and communities as a whole. OEO is important in that it serves as the needed catalyst to link these three domains together. It serves parents by empowering them towards ways to better advocate on behalf of their children while at the same time fosters necessary dialogue with schools and communities in order to create a world class education system.

***Q. If you could share one thing about OEO that you would want the community to know about, what would it be?***

**A.** As the only organization of its kind in the US, the OEO is poised to become a leader in fostering school-community connections. However, it takes people to make it work and sometimes getting involved can be overwhelming given many barriers (time, culture, etc). The one thing that I would want the community to know is that OEO values your opinions and involvement in whatever capacity that one could give—everything one does in the name of education makes a difference.

***Q. Share a little about your thesis, please.***

My dissertation involved exploring the factors that motivate people to become involved in community and civic organizations. Furthermore, I researched how these organizations develop the structures that foster involvement. This has incredible application for groups like the OEO along with parent advocacy groups like the PTA.

***A. What do you think are the top issues in education?***

While shrinking budgets, accountability, achievement, competition, and dwindling resources can represent the most talked about issues facing education today, I want to offer a more nuanced perspective. Those issues, while important, represent *symptoms and outcomes* and there is little conversation about some of the antecedents behinds those issues. We cannot just continue the conversation focusing on creating efficiencies to become more competitive in the world. Rather we should start by asking questions about the purposes of why we educate and what education means for a healthy society. Someone once said, “The philosophy in education in one generation will become the philosophy of government in the next.”