

# WHAT WE DO

- **Professional development**

Workshops are catered to the needs of individual clients (districts/schools) and are created and executed by the faculty members who teach the topic at an institution of higher learning.

- **Consulting sessions**

Individual faculty consult/walkthrough districts and schools.

- **Teacher observations**

The faculty observe individual classrooms and offer constructive feedback that matches research-based and evidence-supported practices.

- **Needs Analysis**

We assist districts/schools in designing self-reflection tools as well as analyzing and interpreting the data.

**Contact us:**

*Bilingualism & English Language Learning  
Research Lab*

*1615 Stanley St, Clarence Carroll Hall 234*

*New Britain, CT 06050*

*email: [elena.koulidobrova@ccsu.edu](mailto:elena.koulidobrova@ccsu.edu)*

# WHY THIS MATTERS

- **Numbers of English Learners**

CT is home to 541,815 students who use 175 different languages in their daily life. 80,007 consider a language other than English to be dominant, and 34,833 are identified as English language learners. This means that their overall proficiency in English is not sufficient for a typical CT pre-K-12 classroom.

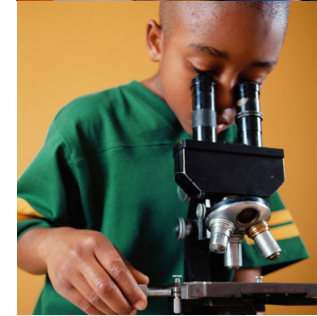
- **Teacher Capacity/Shortage**

The vast majority of educational professionals in CT schools have not received instruction in internal complexities, as well as advantages, of multilingual experience.

- **Classification and Variability**

English learning is not viewed as a subject matter but as a service. Because of this classification, the type and the level of support for English learners, as well as the level of credentialing of providers, varies greatly.

# WHO WE ARE



Faculty from CT colleges and universities, actively engaged in research and teaching pre-service educators

## SUPPORTING TEACHERS

## SUPPORTING LEARNERS

Best practices  
Evidence-based  
Research-supported



## Meet the Director

**Dr. Helen Koulidobrova** is a faculty member in Linguistics/TESOL at CCSU. She holds a Ph.D. in Linguistics and two Master's, one of which is in Teaching English to Speakers/Signers of Other Languages. Her research focuses on acquisition of English and ASL by hearing and deaf multilinguals.

Dr. Koulidobrova is an experienced ESL teacher, having taught English to users of other languages for over 10 years. She has also conducted a number of professional development workshops for language professionals and has served on a variety of legislative workgroups dedicated to improvement of academic outcomes for English learners in the US.

Specialties: Multilingualism, Methods in TESOL, Second Language Writing, and Language Assessment.  
Languages (other than English): Russian, Ukrainian, Spanish, ASL.

---

## Our partners (currently)

- Southern Connecticut State University
- University of Connecticut
- University of St. Joseph
- CT State Department of Education

## Meet the Core Faculty

- **Dr. Matt Ciscel, Ph.D. (CCSU)**, Linguistics/TESOL. Specialties: Intersection of language and culture/Sociolinguistics. Languages (other than English): German, Romanian.

- **Dr. Leyla Zidani-Eroglu, Ph.D. (CCSU)**, Linguistics/TESOL. Specialties: Similarities and differences in the structure of languages/Syntax. Languages (other than English): Turkish, Arabic.

- **Dr. Rocio Fuentes, Ph.D. (CCSU)**, Modern Languages. Specialties: World Language Pedagogy. Languages (other than English): Spanish.

- **Dr. Elizabeth Brewer, Ph.D. (CCSU)**, Composition and Rhetoric. Specialties: First Year College writing courses and Disability Studies.

- **Dr. Shelly M. Jones, Ph.D. (CCSU)**, Mathematical Sciences. Specialty: Culturally Relevant Mathematics Pedagogy.

- **Dr. Angela Lopez-Velasquez, Ph.D. (SCSU)**, Special Education and Reading. Specialties: Literacy development in K-12 bilinguals with and without disabilities. Languages (other than English): Spanish.

- **Dr. Enrique Sepulveda, Ph.D. (University of St. Joseph)**, School of Education. Specialties: Creating communities of “belonging,” citizenship, and civic participation in immigrant youth. Languages (other than English): Spanish.

- **Dr. Hannah Dostal, Ph.D. (University of Connecticut)**, Curriculum and Instruction. Specialties: K-12 literacy instruction, literacy acquisition and development among Deaf and Hard of Hearing students. Languages (other than English): ASL.

- **Dr. Marie Coppola, Ph.D. (University of Connecticut)**, Psychological Sciences, Linguistics. Specialties: Language and cognitive development in deaf children with with varying degrees of access to natural language input. Languages (other than English): ASL, Spanish.

- **Dr. Diane Lillo-Martin, Ph.D. (University of Connecticut)**, Linguistics. Specialties: Language development in signing children with and without cochlear implants. Languages (other than English): ASL.