



Exc-EL Leadership Academy launches in Shelton, Connecticut

UCLA's Graduate School of Education and Information Science (GSEIS) is pleased to announce the **Exc-EL Leadership Academy** has received funding from the National Professional Development (NPD) program, administered by the U.S. Department of Education's Office of English Language Acquisition (OELA). UCLA Professor Dr. Alison Bailey is the Principal Investigator and UCLA Center X's Jason Cervone is the Project Director. The grant will provide \$2.4 million over 5 years, beginning in September of 2016

The **Exc-EL Leadership Academy** will partner with the Shelton, CT public schools in a multi-year project that will employ a data-driven, tiered approach to instruction building on community partnerships to create personalized, expanded learning opportunities for students who do not speak English as their first language. The Shelton, CT schools join existing Exc-EL districts in Tarrytown and Ossining (New York), expanding the number of school sites from 4 to 12, building on nationally recognized work currently in process. Early results from ongoing research with ExcEL schools indicates a positive effect on the results in reading and mathematics assessments for English learners.

Shelton Superintendent of Schools Chris Clouet said, "Helping all students to succeed is central to our mission. We know our EL students are like all young people—full of hope, dreams, and potential. This project will help us to nurture that potential more effectively."

Community partners providing support at the Shelton site include the Plumb Library and the Boys and Girls Club of Shelton. Plus Alpha Research Consultants, Exc-EL's research and evaluation partner, will expand their work to ensure the Shelton site work is documented and effective.

Teams of educators will be trained in research-based instructional techniques by Exc-EL coaches that have been proven to be effective with English learners. The teams will meet regularly to discuss the students' progress and explore their strengths and challenges, with the aim of differentiating instruction and creating effective school and community based interventions for students. The Center for Secondary School Redesign, Exc-EL's school redesign partner, will provide coaching and support for personalized learning environments.

Recognizing the English Learners often deal with life issues well beyond the traditional school day, community partners will provide multiple supports for these students as well as their families to empower students and families to take an active role in learning, as well as in taking leadership roles within the community.

For further information, contact: **Jason Cervone, Project Director**
jcervone@gseis.ucla.edu
203-365-8914