

## Faculty

**Dr. Sarah Benis Scheier-Dolberg**

**Associate Director**

**Urban Education Leaders Collaborative**

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Dr. Sarah Benis Scheier-Dolberg is the Associate Director of the Urban Education Leaders Collaborative (UELC) at Columbia University Teachers College. She works in partnership with urban district leaders in New York, Los Angeles, New Orleans, Charlotte and other major cities to develop and deliver professional development programming for district-level and building-level leaders. Dr. Benis Scheier-Dolberg also serves as a leadership coach and literacy specialist for schools in New York City. Prior to her current roles, Dr. Benis Scheier-Dolberg served as a teacher and professional developer across subjects and grade levels. She also has been a mentor, coach and professional developer for teachers working across varied settings to support English learners and their families. Having served as an intern in the NYC DOE Division of Students with Disabilities and English Language Learners, a high school special educator, and a Mentor Teacher and Site Director for the Boston Teacher Residency Program, Dr. Benis Scheier-Dolberg brings a K-12 perspective to supporting teachers and school leaders in their efforts to create inclusive learning communities.



Dr. Benis Scheier-Dolberg received her doctoral degree in Urban Education Leadership at Teachers College, Columbia University, where she also received her M.Ed in Urban Education Leadership. She completed her undergraduate at Swarthmore College earning high honors and a research award for her thesis exploring services learning in urban schools.

**Dr. Albert Jones**

**Professor**

**Cal State LA Charter College of Education**

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Dr. Jones is a professor at Cal State Charter College of Education, where he joined as a faculty since 1991. At Charter College of Education, he has taught both in the area of teacher preparation as a member of the Single Subject/Multiple Subject Teaching Credential Program faculty and in the area of school leadership preparation as a member of the Educational Administration Program faculty. Dr. Jones began his career in education as a teacher and administrator in the Tennessee public schools. Dr. Jones also created the Alliance for the Study of School Climate, where he serves as co-director. His research through the alliance has led to numerous presentations and publications, as well as providing consulting and professional development to schools and school districts throughout the nation.



Dr. Jones earned his doctorate in Educational Administration from Tennessee State University, where he also received his master in Curriculum and Instruction. Dr. Jones earned his bachelor's degree in History and Political Science from University of Mississippi.

**Dr. Leila Ricci**

**Associate Professor**

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Dr. Leila Ricci is an Associate Professor in the Mild/Moderate Disabilities program of the Division of Special Education and Counseling in the Charter College of Education at Cal State Los Angeles. Dr. Ricci is the Program Coordinator for the Special Education residency pathway of the Los Angeles Urban Teacher Residency-Transformation Initiative (LAUTR-TI). Dr. Ricci's teaching interests include teaching reading to children with Mild/Moderate disabilities, the foundations of Special Education, instructional planning and delivery, collaboration and co-teaching, as well as support and supervision of interns, traditional credential candidates, and LAUTR-TI special education residents. Dr. Ricci's research interests focus on teaching reading to children with disabilities, collaboration between general and special education teachers, and supporting novice special educators.

Dr. Ricci received her doctoral degree in Special Education from University of California – Los Angeles. She earned her master's degree in Educational Therapy from California State University – Northridge, after she completed her undergraduate in English and Iranian Studies at University of California – Los Angeles.

**Dr. Kimi Wilson**

**Assistant Professor**

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Dr. Kimi Wilson joined the Charter College of Education in August 2016 as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction. He has been awarded the Concha Delgado Gaitan Council of Anthropology and Education Presidential fellowship for the 2016-2017 academic year. Dr. Wilson's research has been examining mathematics and science identity development for African American students in K-12 public schooling, as it relates to STEM education and participation. His published works have focused on identity development of African American males pursuing STEM in higher education, and teacher identity development in mathematics. Dr. Wilson anticipates expanding his research to focus on African American students mathematics and science learning in the elementary grades. Dr. Wilson is a former public school teacher in California with experience as an elementary teacher, a secondary math and science teacher, and experience working with pre- and in-service teachers.

Dr. Wilson earned his doctorate in Educational Leadership from California State University – Los Angeles. He received his master in education from Pepperdine University and he completed his undergraduate studies in Sociology with a minor in African American Studies at Loyola Marymount University.