

# General English Learners (GELs) Advisory Panel



---

## Megan-Brette Hamilton

**Dr. Megan-Brette Hamilton** is an assistant professor and an ASHA-certified speech-language pathologist. She spent 10 years in New York City schools, the largest school district in the U.S., working primarily with African American and Hispanic students. During this time, she also hosted a show on Brooklyn cable television, where she got a taste of the diverse cultures and language varieties that exist in the city. Her research centers on the classroom and clinical experiences of African American English-speaking children and speakers of other non-mainstream language varieties. She is curious about the paralinguistic aspects of language varieties, teacher-student communication interactions, and the role of dialect and cultural identity in acquiring General American English literacy. Dr. Hamilton presents her work nationally and internationally; consults with teachers, speech-language pathologists, and other

professionals on culturally responsive practices; hosts the Honeybee Connection podcast; and maintains a blog at [www.meganbrettehamilton.com](http://www.meganbrettehamilton.com) dedicated to increasing our understanding of cultural-linguistic diversity.

### **PUBLICATIONS:**

- My Grandma House: An Informed Lens on African American English
- Clinical Implications for Working With Non Mainstream Dialect Speakers: A Focus on Two Filipino Kindergartners
- Volume and Verve: Understanding Correction/Behavioral Warnings in Teacher-Child Classroom Interactions Involving an African American Kindergarten Student

**EMAIL:** [mb@meganbrettehamilton.com](mailto:mb@meganbrettehamilton.com)

---

## Julie Washington

**Dr. Julie Washington** is a Professor in the School of Education at the University of California – Irvine (UCI). She is a speech-language pathologist and is a Fellow of the American Speech Language Hearing Association. Dr. Washington directs the Learning Disabilities Research Innovation Hub funded by the National Institutes of Health, Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development. She is also director of the Dialect, Poverty and Academic Success lab at UCI. Currently, Dr. Washington's research is focused on the intersection of literacy, language variation, and poverty. In particular, her work focuses on understanding the role of language variation in assessment and identification of reading disabilities in school-aged African American children and on disentangling the relationship between language production and comprehension on development of reading and early language skills for children growing up in poverty.

### **PUBLICATIONS:**

- Malik Goes to School: Examining the Language Skills of African American Students From Preschool-5th Grade
- Dyslexia: Revisiting Etiology, Diagnosis, Treatment, and Policy
- Julie Washington's Quest to Get Schools to Respect African-American English

---

## Rebecca Wheeler

**Dr. Rebecca Wheeler** is a Professor of English Linguistics at Christopher Newport University, a liberal arts college in Newport News, Virginia. For more than two decades, her research has focused on bringing linguistically informed approaches to the teaching of General American English in minority dialect classrooms. She has published many articles and two books on linguistically informed approaches to language varieties, with her work appearing in *Language Arts*, *English Journal*, *Reading Teacher*, *Language and Linguistic Compass*, and *Annual Review of Linguistics* among others. Her books on dialect shifting have been published by the National Council of Teachers of English and by Heinemann. In 2016, Dr. Wheeler served as a Fulbright Scholar in Teaching English as a Foreign Language in Tajikistan, and subsequently served as English Language Specialist to Nepal through the U. S. Department of State. Dr. Wheeler's research focuses nationally on issues of diversity and equity in American classrooms and internationally on issues of teaching writing in developing nations.

### **PUBLICATIONS:**

- Factoring AAVE into Reading Assessment and Instruction
- 'So Much Research, So Little Change': Teaching Standard English in African American Classrooms
- Code-Switch to Teach Standard English

**EMAIL:** [rwheeler@cnu.edu](mailto:rwheeler@cnu.edu)