

Brief Descriptions of WCGMF's Partnerships with Universities

Western Connecticut State University Education and Educational Psychology Department, [Dr. Theresa J. Canada](#): *Parents of Young Children: Their Perception of Teacher Quality and Access to Quality Care*

WCSU works with Danbury Children First to understand parent perceptions related to early childhood teacher quality and how they define important teaching qualities and behaviors. [These findings](#) were then used to develop a "parenting" curriculum to be used in teacher preparation courses, professional development programs, and with current pre-school teachers.

Southern Connecticut State University, [Sousan Arafeh, Ph.D.](#): *Targeted Assessment of Foundation Contribution*

SCSU works with the Memorial Fund to design an organization-wide approach to assessing the contribution of Discovery and set up systems for collecting and analyzing data going forward. This is a collaborative effort that focused on the Memorial Fund's internal data processes.

University of Connecticut, Neag School of Education, Center for Education Policy Analysis, [Dr. Kimberly LeChasseur](#): *Examining Levers of Change in Discovery Communities*

The Neag School of Education at UCONN works with Connecticut funders and ten Discovery communities to better understand the levers of community change and how change really happens on the ground in communities. Discovery community collaboratives provide input as well as receive feedback about what they can do to reach the next level of collaboration, performance management, and sustainability.

Institute for Translational Research University of Hartford, [Paige M. Bray, Ed.D.](#), Assistant Professor of Early Childhood: *Parent Information and Inquiry*

In 2011, the University of Hartford in 2011 received a grant to work with ten parent co-researchers from five Discovery communities. They developed an issue guide, in partnership with the Kettering Foundation, to help communities talk about nurturing children. The co-researchers also created community action projects to address some of the challenges facing parents. In 2014, UH worked with Connecticut Parent Power and parent advocates to develop a statewide parent-driven network.

Yale University, Department of Psychology, Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, [Susan Rivers, PhD](#): *Investigating processes for family, school and community collaboration to promote children's social-emotional development*

In 2012, the Memorial Fund provided a grant to Yale to engage parents and community members in a discussion about social-emotional development in early childhood and parent's role in promoting healthy development. Through this study, schools, families, and communities came together to develop a shared language to describe and understand social-emotional intelligence.