

Super Proud of our Homegrown Women Who Make an Impact on Dyslexia Every Day Right Here in CT!



Sally E. Shaywitz, M.D. is the Audrey G. Ratner Professor in Learning Development at Yale University and Co-Founder and Co-Director of the Yale Center for Dyslexia & Creativity. As a physician-scientist Dr. Shaywitz both carries out the cutting-edge research to advance the science of dyslexia while also devoting herself to caring for children and adults who are dyslexic; her studies provide the basic framework and details for the 21st century scientific understanding of dyslexia. Dr. Shaywitz's ongoing neurobiological and longitudinal epidemiological studies track a population-based cohort from kindergarten entry to mature adulthood and have provided contemporary knowledge of the prevalence, gender composition, universality, precursors, persistence, and long-term outcome of dyslexia. Dr. Shaywitz is the author of over 350 scientific articles and chapters, as well as the award-winning, best selling go-to book on dyslexia. Learn more [here](#).

Margie B. Gillis, Ed.D is a nationally recognized literacy expert and a [Certified Academic Language Therapist](#) who has been teaching children of all ages to read for over 40 years. She received her Doctorate of Education from the University of Louisville in Special Education. In 2009, Margie founded Literacy How, Inc. to provide professional development opportunities and coaching for teachers on how best to implement evidence-based reading practices in the classroom. Margie has worked at the policy level through the Connecticut State Department of Education (CSDE). She was instrumental in Connecticut's adoption of a universal screening test for K-3 students, implementing the Connecticut Foundations of Reading Test as part of the certification process for pre-service teachers, and for the design and execution of the Connecticut K-3 Literacy Initiative. Margie was recently a member of SRPA and the [CSDE's SLD/Dyslexia Workgroup](#). Learn more [here](#).



Allison Quirion is an experienced paralegal who transitioned into education policy when unable to find answers around why many Connecticut schools lacked appropriate support for students with dyslexia. She is the founder of Decoding Dyslexia-CT, a grassroots movement committed to advancing education reform initiatives designed to improve literacy achievement outcomes for students at-risk for and identified with dyslexia and empowering individuals to advocate at the district and state levels. Since 2013, under her leadership, Decoding Dyslexia-CT successfully advanced several pieces of legislation committed to providing educators with the preparation and training needed to effectively identify and

teach students with dyslexia. Allison served as Coordinator of Educator Training Initiatives with the International Dyslexia Association (IDA), where she helped to shape, manage, and bring to closure key initiatives designed to positively impact global educator training and credentialing practices. Initiatives included the refinement of the Knowledge and Practice Standards (KPS) for Teachers of Reading; trademarking of the term "Structured Literacy". She is a member of SRPA as well as CT-DAC, Learn more about Allison Quirion [here](#).

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