

Meet Our Staff

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Alicia A. Elliott, ED.D. CCC/SLP

Dr. Alicia A. Elliott was born in Burbank, California and attended CSU Long Beach, obtaining her BA degree in Speech Communication, an MA in Communication Disorders, a second MA in Educational Administration and her doctorate degree in Special Education in 1997 from UCLA.

She held various positions with Los Angeles County Superintendent of Schools Office, including Aphasia Teacher, 1974-75; Autism Teacher, 1975-79; and Language/Speech Specialist, 1979-81.

During her time with the county, she worked as a teacher in the Aphasia Transition Class, serving children with Asperger's Syndrome. This pioneering, federally-funded program was part of the Language Based Autism Program following implementation of PL 94-142.

Dr. Elliott has maintained a private practice since 1983 and in 1997 with the late Leslie K. Watkins, founded the Elliott Institute, which has served over 130 children, adolescents and young adults in its school and clinic.

Recipient of an Individual Achievement Award, Extraordinary Teaching Competence, National Society for Autistic Children, 1979, and Clinical Competence, Outstanding Service and Outstanding Graduate Student Award, CSU Long Beach, 1973-74, she received the 1997 Outstanding Achievement Award from the California Speech and Hearing Association for her work with communication-disabled children.

A recipient of multiple WHO'S WHO mentions, Dr. Elliott is sought after as a presenter at numerous conferences on autism and language disorders, and has served as an expert witness in Mediation/Fair Hearing cases and as a panelist on Autism issues. She also serves on the Board at Pasadena City College as an advisor for the SLPA Training Program and is certified as a Supervisor for Speech and Language Pathology Assistants through ASHA.

Professional Organizations:

Member of Phi Delta Kappa , Phi Kappa Phi and Phi Lambda Theta
American Speech-Language and Hearing Association (ASHA)
California Speech-Language and Hearing Association
The National Fragile X Foundation
Association of Educational Therapists
California Association for Behavior Analysis

Credentials:

California Teaching Credential, Severely Handicapped
California Teaching Credential, Standard Elementary, Specialization in Speech and Hearing
California Teaching Credential, Administration
ASHA Certificate of Clinical Competence, Speech Pathology
California State License in Speech-Language Pathology

Certifications:

California Department of Education to design and implement behavior therapy plans
California Board of Medical Quality Assurance (License)
State Certification of Elliott Institute as a Non-Public School and Non-Public Agency

| [Back to Top](#) |

Eileen Tatevossian

Ms. Tatevossian received her B.A. in History with a specialization in Education from UCLA in June 1997. She began working full time on her Masters and credentials in Moderate/Severe Disabilities at California State University at Northridge in August 1997. At CSUN Eileen won the Dan Chernow Future Teacher Scholarship award. She was then accepted to the Teacher's College at Columbia University, N.Y. in Behavior Analysis. She graduated with her M.A. and Special Education Credential in October 1999.

Eileen worked as a behavioral specialist at UCLA's Neuropsychiatric Institute, administering behavioral assessments to patients as well as designing and implementing prescriptive programs for inpatients and outpatients with severe

emotional and behavioral disorders. In New York City, Eileen worked at the behavioral schools Fred S. Keller and Bronxville Elementary where she implemented effective behavioral management techniques consistent with the literature in Applied Behavior Analysis. As a behavioral therapist at NYL Lifestart Program at Lenox Hill Hospital, Eileen worked with children with Pervasive Developmental Disorders in their homes, recognizing the importance of parent training.

As the Director of the Behavioral Department, Eileen began working as the Behavioral Program Specialist at the Elliott Institute in November 2000. Eileen conducts Functional Analysis on students' behaviors, writes behavior programs for three classes of children with autism, attends IEP's as needed and provides 1:1 behavior services after school.

| [Back to Top](#) |

Agnes Patton

Ms. Patton received her B.A. in Liberal Studies with concentration on Linguistics from California State University, Northridge and has 15 years of experience working with children with disabilities, including a year at Villa Esperanza in Pasadena, California.

Her training has been extensive and includes programs such as:

- Handwriting without Tears
- Links to Language I and II
- Picture Exchange Communication System (PECS)
- How Should We Teach Them to Read?
- Childhood Communication Seminars
- Behavior Intervention Case Manager Training
- Non-violent Crisis Intervention training program
- What to Teach and How to Measure What They Have Learned
- Differentiating Instruction and Promoting Staff Implementation in the Era of High Standards

For seven years she worked with a child with disability doing a home program of the Institutes for Achievement of Human Potential Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

In addition, while in Philadelphia, she completed all the requirements of the Child Brain Development Course at the Initial Parent Level (1993), at the Intermediate Parent Level (1994) and at the Completion of lecture series (1997).

Although she started as a volunteer with our Saturday Program, she officially joined Elliott Institute in 1997 as a Speech Assistant and in July 2004 became the Director of the Educational Department.

Agnes currently conducts the Enhancement Program in the classes, designs and writes educational programs for three classes of children with autism, attends IEP's as needed and provides speech therapy services after school under the supervision of Dr. Alicia A. Elliott, CCC/SLP .

| [Back to Top](#) |

Karla Keese

Karla is the Clinic Teacher in our Elementary & Classroom. She is the mother of three children, one of whom has autism. Karla holds a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Speech Communication from California State University, Los Angeles and a Master of Arts Degree in Human Development from Pacific Oaks College in Pasadena, CA. She also earned her Preliminary Level I Education Specialist Instructor credential for Moderate/Severe Disabilities from Pacific Oaks College. She received her certification as a Behavior Intervention Case Manager (BICM) from the Los Angeles Unified School District Division of Special Education. Karla intends to pursue a Professional Level II Credential for Moderate/Severe Disabilities from California State University, Northridge.

[| Back to Top |](#)

Melody Gomez-loele

Melody Gomez-loele is the Transition Specialist at Elliott Institute. She was instrumental in the development of the new Transition Program at Elliott, which was created to meet the ever-changing needs of the middle and secondary school students.

She holds a Preliminary Level I Education Specialist credential and works with students and staff to develop and implement transition goals, prepares students for post-school activities, and facilitates group instruction addressing a variety of vocational skills.

She has had over two years of experience as a classroom teacher at Elliott. She holds a Bachelors degree in English Literature from UCLA, as well as a Substitute credential as an Education Specialist in Special Education for students with moderate to severe disabilities.

She is currently obtaining her Masters degree in Special Education with a specialization in Facilitating Behavior Change at California State University of Los Angeles.

[| Back to Top |](#)

