

## WCU's English-as-Second-Language Program Readies for Opening



*ELS at WCU director Heather Light in the program's new language lab in Mitchell Hall.*

On June 20, ELS Language Centers will launch at West Chester University, offering 4-week sessions of English-as-a-second-language instruction to students from around the globe. The partnership between ELS and WCU will help international students gain the English proficiency

they need to succeed at WCU or other U.S. universities.

“ELS is known for its high quality academic program as well as a strong record of international student recruitment and outreach,” says Peter Loedel, interim director/assistant vice president for International Programs. “WCU’s strategic plan envisions growth in the number of international students attending the University. This program of instruction will be a critical piece in the strategy of doubling the number of international students on campus.”

On April 11, Heather Light began working as ELS’s on-site director. “I am very excited about this opportunity to help grow West Chester University’s international population,” says Light. “It’s a great university on an attractive campus with all the amenities of the borough of West Chester right at our door step. Plus, big cities aren’t far away. I think a lot of foreign students will be interested in finding out more about ELS at WCU.”

Currently, ELS offers programming at more than 60 universities nationwide. Twelve proficiency levels are offered, from beginner to level 112, which is the level required for admission to most U.S. universities. ELS students at WCU will be granted a conditional letter of admission to the University and upon completing ELS 112 as proof of their English proficiency, matriculate as undergraduate or graduate students.

ELS at West Chester University is located on the fourth floor of Mitchell Hall. Recruitment is taking place worldwide, with the largest number of students expected to come from Asia, the Middle East and South America. On April 26, 15 ELS counselors from China will spend the day on campus, getting to know a bit more about the University and what it has to offer.

For more information about ELS at WCU go to <http://www.wcupa.edu/international/esl.aspx> or email Light at [hlight@els.edu](mailto:hlight@els.edu).