



Democratizing Evidence: The Power and Opportunity to Transform - Advancing Equity through Evidence and Democratic Engagement

Thursday, April 25, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Technical Tips

1. To comment and access resources to the "Chat".
2. Add questions to the "Q&A" feature.
3. **Adjust your audio** to your own personal settings.

This webinar is being recorded and will be posted on <https://www.communityschools.org/link/join-a-network/research-practice-network/>

Land Recognition



<https://usdac.us/nativeland> #HonorNativeLand Guide



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SCHOOLS

An Initiative of IEL

Innovation. Equity. Leadership.

Poll Question: Which of the following role best describes your current role?

- I'm a practitioner
- I'm a researcher
- I'm an administrator or a community school coordinator
- I'm a community organizer
- I'm a community school partner
- I'm a policymaker
- I'm a graduate student
- Other

IEL CCS RPN Research Agenda



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[CCS RPN Website](#)

IEL CCS RPN Co-Chairs



Dr. Jessica Knapp
CCS RPN Practitioner Co-Chair;
President & State Director, Communities
in Schools of Pennsylvania



Dr. Naorah Rimkunas
CCS RPN Researcher Co-Chair;
Assistant Professor of Community
Schools at Binghamton University



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Thursday, April 25, 2:00 – 3:00 PM ET

Today's Speakers

Speaker



Jim Kohlmoos

**Principal, EDGE Consulting
Partners**

Speaker



Dr. Ilene Berman

**Director, Evidence-Based
Practice Group
Annie E. Casey Foundation**

THE DEMOCRATIZATION OF EVIDENCE IN EDUCATION: AN EMERGING FIELD READY FOR CULTIVATION

Presentation to Coalition for Community Schools Research Practice
Network



Session Goals

- Build understanding of the vision, guiding principles and landscape for democratizing evidence in education
- Explore the recommendations and the implications
- Consider cultivation strategies for the future

Agenda

- Democratizing Evidence
- Funders Learning Group
- Landscape Analysis
- Roles for Philanthropy, Researchers, Educators, Communities
- Opportunities and Next Steps

Ice Breaker



When you hear "democratizing evidence in education," what first comes to mind for you?

Funders Learning Group for Using Evidence for Change

1. Advance the production and use of research evidence in policy and practice in education and related sectors
2. Share information about members' interests, priorities and activities
3. Engage in collaborative learning on high-priority topics and pressing issues
4. Coordinate common interests for potential collective action and high-level collaboration



Funders Learning Group for Using Evidence for Change

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Working Definition: Democratizing Evidence



Diverse stakeholders, particularly those most closely situated to the issues...



...have the power and opportunity to **shape the production and use of research evidence.**



Such a process aims to **address systemic inequities** and **advance racial justice.**

Democratizing Evidence Principles



Inclusive
engagement

Participation
across the
research
process

Responsive
research
agendas

Responsible
evidence
production
and use

Landscape Scan

Landscape Scan Parameters

To better understand the scope and breadth of democratizing evidence activity in education, look for **people, organizations and networks** that:

- A. Facilitate inclusive engagement
- B. Ensure participation across the research process
- C. Create responsive research agendas
- D. Promote responsible evidence production and use
- E. Aim to advance racial equity and social justice aspirations

Landscape Scan Methodology

- A. Surveyors not excavators
- B. Steve Fleischman, Alicia Wilson-Ahlstrom
- C. Internet searches
- D. Internal documents
- E. Interviews with selected signatories
- F. Survey of signatories

Finding #1 Variety of People and Institutions

A variety of people and institutions are engaged but not coordinated or interconnected:

- Non-profit/for-profit contract research firms
- Public policy and practice organizations
- Professional researchers
- Higher education
- Government
- Funders



Finding #1 Variety of People and Institutions ... con't

- **Florida State's *The Villages*** --- Nicole Patton Terry
- **Broward County's *Children's Service Council*** --- Sue Gallagher
- **City University of New York's *Public Science Project*** --- Michelle Fine
- **Rice University's *Kinder Institute/National Network for Education Research Practice Partnerships*** --- Ruth Lopez Turley/Paula Arce-Trigatti
- **San Francisco Unified School District's *Research Planning***

Finding #2 Other Sectors

The social and scientific sectors have more mature models that offer useful lessons and potential collaborations for education.

- Public health
- Climate science
- Children's Services
- Social welfare



Finding #3 Resources Aplenty

Resources are growing and widening but the evidence base is still limited.

- Facilitate inclusive engagement
- Knowledge sharing
- Position papers
- Guides
- Technical assistance
- Few studies



Finding #4 By Other Names

Democratizing Evidence by other names:

- Collaborative Education Research
- Knowledge Mobilization
- Inclusive R&D
- Public Science
- Citizen Science
- Open Science
- Participatory Action Research

Finding #4 (cont.) Not a Tent



Finding #5 Emerging Field

Democratizing Evidence is an emerging field ready to be cultivated.

- Bridgespan “Strong Field” Framework
 - Shared Identity
 - Common Standards
 - Knowledge Base
 - Leadership and Grassroots
 - Funding and Policy



Recommendations



Focus on **field building**, including coordination and brokering of existing initiatives and activities.



Establish or identify an **administrative home and leadership base** to support the growing and active — but disorganized — field.



Engage in **phased strategies** for raising awareness, supporting policies for scaling, monitoring the landscape and collecting promising practices.

Questions to Consider

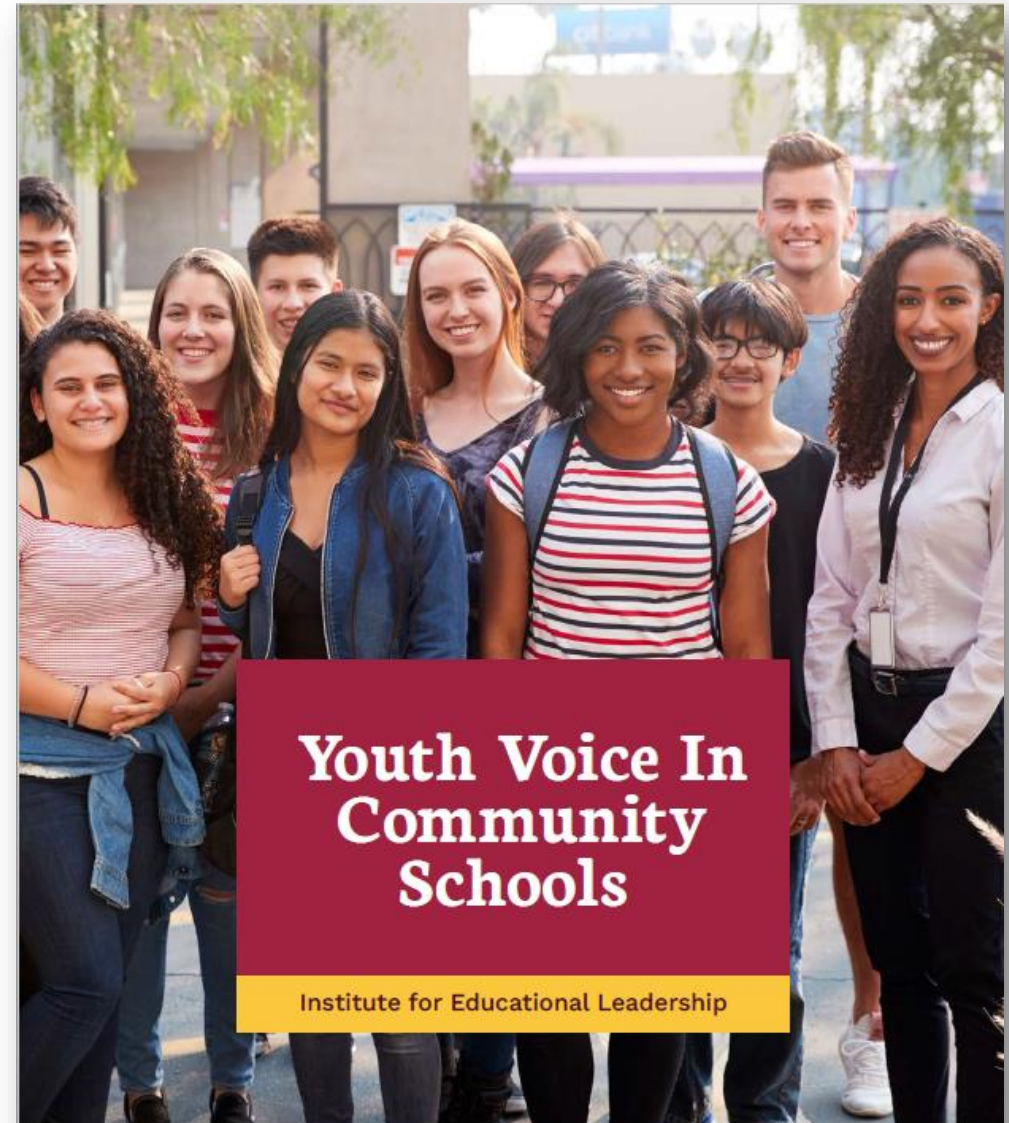
- **For practitioners:**
 - How to engage with usable knowledge?
 - Where and when is it helpful/falls short?
 - What do you want the research and funder communities to know about the application of *democratizing evidence*?
- **For researchers:**
 - What are the implications for how you approach knowledge production and exchange?
 - What opportunities/constraints you face in your own context?

Tips for Practitioners & Researchers

- Context matters
- Co-equals at the table
- Confident but humble in what you have to offer
- Breakdown the silos
- Focus on solutions to real challenges



Youth Voice in Community Schools





Framework



Framework for Youth Voice, Engagement, and Leadership in Community Schools



Guide Recommendations

33

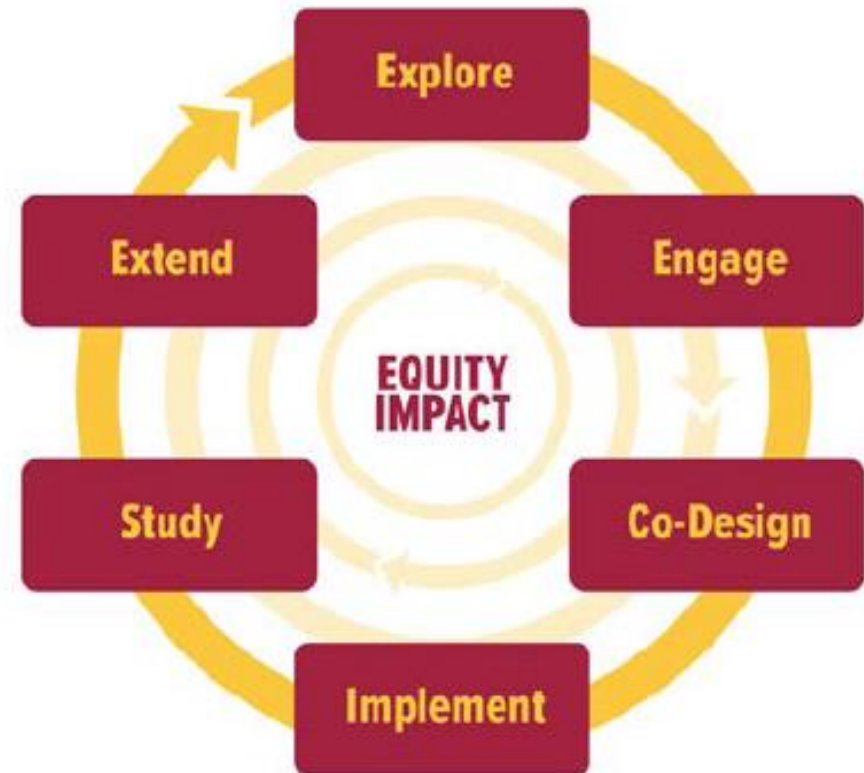


Figure 2. Process for Youth Engagement
Note: Adapted from the Institute for Educational Leadership (IEL) Community-Driven Equity Improvement Process



Vignettes – Stories Shared by Youth

12 students from the following six Community Schools shared their stories.

- Batesville Public Schools (AR)
- University Pathways Public Service Academy (CA)
- Robert F. Kennedy Community Schools (CA)
- Mann UCLA Community School (CA)
- Atrisco Heritage High School (NM)
- North Division High School (WI)

DISCUSSION



Register for the [2024 National Community Schools & Family Engagement Conference](#) in Atlanta, GA from May 29-31.

2 critical webinars this month focused on non-congregate meals, with sessions on financing, models, and meal planning.

Sign up today!

(Tomorrow!) April 26th – [Unlocking Access: Implementing Home Delivered Meals to Expand Summer Meal Access for Rural Families](#)

(Tuesday) April 30th – [Summer Success: Boosting Participation with Expert Menu Planning](#)



Making Family Math a Part of Your Research and Practice Agenda (Thurs, June 13, 2-3pm ET)

This webinar will explore family math - what it is, why it's important for students' long-term outcomes, how schools and other educational settings can encourage it, and how researchers can advance knowledge to amplify the power and love of math through family engagement.

Speakers:

- Dr. Holly Kreider, Director, Center for Family Math, National Association for Family, School, and Community Engagement (NAFSCE)
- Dr. Jennifer McCray, Associate Research Professor, Erikson Institute

[Zoom Registration](#)

To view previous webinar recordings, access our research agenda, and the Community Schools Research Clearinghouse, visit <https://www.communityschools.org/link/join-a-network/research-practice-network/>



Thank You!

Please fill out the post-webinar feedback form!