



Save the Date: Harnessing Research to Improve Student Engagement



Chronic absenteeism [rose](#) during the pandemic and still hasn't returned to prior levels. This is one of several signs that students today may be less engaged in school than they once were.

In a series of three free webinars launched this spring, the National Academy of Education and the Southern Center for Opportunity and Access (formerly Equity Assistance Center-South) are bringing together scholars and practitioners to highlight ways to harness research to improve student engagement by creating supportive environments that foster deeper learning.

The [next installment](#) will be from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Eastern Time on Tuesday, August 18th. Entitled *Building Supportive Learning Environments Through Instructional Practice*, the webinar features two scholars: [NEPC Fellow H. Richard Milner IV](#) of Vanderbilt and [Megan Franke](#) of UCLA. They will be joined by [Micah Pate](#), principal of Cooper Lane Elementary in Maryland, and by [Eshé Collins](#), who directs the Southern Center for Opportunity and Access. The participants will share practi-

cal, research-informed strategies for fostering student belonging, deep learning, and engagement. They will also describe research on ways that students experience learning environments.

The first webinar, now available [on demand](#), provided a foundation for the series by highlighting how learning sciences, human development, and neuroscience connect to real-life learning in classrooms. Participants were [Amy Berman](#), Deputy Director of the National Academy of Education, [Mary Helen Immordino-Yang](#) of the University of Southern California, [Samantha O'Connor](#), a high school chemistry teacher at Harpeth Hall School in Tennessee, [Peter Karp](#), a principal at the Institute for Collaborative Education in New York, and [Mathew Nuñez](#), a social studies teacher at Da Vinci RISE High in Los Angeles, along with Eshé Collins.

The final webinar of the series takes place from 3:00-4:30 p.m. Eastern Time on September 17th. Participants including [Cynthia Coburn](#) of Northwestern and [Carla O'Connor](#) of the University of Michigan will delve into the policy side of fostering deeper learning, engagement, and belonging.

[The National Academy of Education](#) is a nonpartisan, nonprofit organization whose members are elected on the basis of their record of producing high-quality education research to improve education policy and practice. Funded by the U.S. Department of Education, the [Southern Center for Opportunity and Access](#) provides free technical assistance and training to school districts in 11 states, with the goal of helping them provide equitable learning opportunities to all their students.

NEPC Resources on Classroom Teaching and Learning

This newsletter is made possible in part by support provided by the Great Lakes Center for Education Research and Practice: <http://www.greatlakescenter.org>

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