



# Getting Down to Facts III 2026 Conference

Aligning Governance, Policy, and Capacity to  
Support Student Success

Monday, May 11, 2026 • 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Tsakopoulos Library Galleria, 500 J Street, Sacramento, CA

8:00 – 9:00 a.m. <i>Foyer</i>	<b>Breakfast Buffet and Registration</b>
9:00 – 9:15 a.m. <i>Galleria</i>	<b>Welcome</b> Lupita Cortez Alcalá, Executive Director, PACE, Stanford University
9:15 – 9:45 a.m. <i>Galleria</i>	<b>Opening Keynote</b> Susanna Loeb, Professor and Faculty Director, SCALE Initiative, Stanford Graduate School of Education
9:45 – 10:15 a.m.	<b>Break and Transition</b>
10:15 – 11:45 a.m.	<b>Breakout #1 (choose one)</b>
<b>Breakout #1a</b> <i>Galleria</i>	<b>Governance, Accountability, &amp; Support Systems</b> Moderator: <b>Julie A. Marsh</b> , Faculty Director, PACE, and Professor of Education Policy, USC Rossier School of Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Jacob Hibel</b>, Associate Professor, Department of Sociology, University of California, Davis</li> <li>• <b>Morgan Polikoff</b>, Professor of Education, USC Rossier School of Education</li> <li>• <b>Jose Eos Trinidad</b>, Assistant Professor, UC Berkeley School of Education</li> <li>• <b>Jason Willis</b>, Clinical Professor, McGeorge School of Law, University of the Pacific</li> </ul>
<b>Breakout #1b</b> <i>East Meeting Room</i>	<b>Education Workforce &amp; Instructional Improvement</b> Moderator: <b>H. Alix Gallagher</b> , Director of Education Policy and Outcomes, PACE, Stanford University <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Melanie Leung-Gagné</b>, Researcher, Learning Policy Institute</li> <li>• <b>Maya Kaul</b>, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, University of Pennsylvania Graduate School of Education</li> <li>• <b>Sarah Novicoff</b>, Research Fellow, Public Policy Institute of California</li> <li>• <b>Elizabeth Huffaker</b>, Assistant Professor, University of Florida College of Education</li> <li>• <b>Sherri Reed</b>, Executive Director, California Education Lab, University of California, Davis</li> <li>• <b>Laura E. Hernández</b>, Senior Researcher II, Learning Policy Institute</li> </ul>
<b>Breakout #1c</b> <i>West Meeting Room</i>	<b>School Funding and Sustainability</b> Moderator: <b>Paul Bruno</b> , Assistant Professor of Education Policy, Organization and Leadership, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign College of Education <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Francis Pearman</b>, Assistant Professor of Education, Stanford Graduate School of Education</li> <li>• <b>Cory Koedel</b>, Professor of Economics and Public Policy, University of Missouri College of Arts and Science</li> <li>• <b>Jonathan Kaplan</b>, Senior Policy Advisor and Researcher, Learning Policy Institute</li> <li>• <b>Sara Hinkley</b>, California Programs Manager, Center for Cities + Schools, University of California, Berkeley</li> </ul>



11:45 a.m. – 12:15 p.m. <i>Galleria</i>	<b>Lunch Buffet</b>
12:15 – 1:00 p.m. <i>Galleria</i>	<p><b>Lunch Keynote Speaker and Panel – The Future of Learning for California’s Students: Advancing Equity Through Research and Evaluation</b></p> <p>Keynote and Moderator: <b>Lawrence Winn</b>, Chancellor’s Leadership Professor, Associate Professor of Teaching in Education, and Executive Director of the Transformative Justice in Education (TJE) Center, UC Davis School of Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Antero Garcia</b>, Associate Professor, Stanford Graduate School of Education</li> <li>• <b>Susanna Loeb</b>, Professor and Faculty Director, SCALE Initiative, Stanford Graduate School of Education</li> <li>• <b>Chris Agnew</b>, Director, AI for Education Hub, Stanford Graduate School of Education</li> </ul>
1:00 – 1:15 p.m.	<b>Break and Transition</b>
1:15 – 2:45 p.m.	<b>Breakout #2 (choose one)</b>
<b>Breakout #2a</b> <i>Galleria</i>	<p><b>Multilingual Learners</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Magalay Lavadenz</b>, Leavey Presidential Endowed Chair in Moral and Ethical Leadership and Executive Director, Center for Equity for English Learners, LMU School of Education</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Ilana Umansky</b>, Associate Professor, Associate Professor of Education Policy and Leadership and Quantitative Research Methods in Education, University of Oregon School of Education</li> <li>• <b>Lucrecia Santibañez</b>, Professor of Education, UCLA School of Education and Information Studies</li> <li>• <b>Francesca López</b>, Jim and Georgia Thompson Distinguished Professor in Education, University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Education</li> <li>• <b>Heather Price</b>, Principal Researcher, Learning Policy Institute</li> <li>• <b>Carolyn Sattin-Bajaj</b>, Professor, Department of Education, Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, University of California, Santa Barbara</li> </ul>
<b>Breakout #2b</b> <i>West Meeting Room</i>	<p><b>Early Childhood Education</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Lupita Cortez Alcalá</b>, Executive Director, PACE, Stanford University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Beth Meloy</b>, Founding Member, Child and Family Advisory Collaborative</li> <li>• <b>Deborah Stipek</b>, Professor Emerita, Stanford Graduate School of Education</li> <li>• <b>Rucker Johnson</b>, Chancellor’s Professor of Public Policy, UC Berkeley School of Education</li> <li>• <b>Austin Land</b>, Researcher and Policy Analyst, UC Berkeley School of Education</li> </ul>
<b>Breakout #2c</b> <i>East Meeting Room</i>	<p><b>Serving Students with Disabilities</b></p> <p>Moderator: <b>Jeannie Myung</b>, Director of Policy and Research, PACE, Stanford University</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Alfredo J. Artiles</b>, Lee L. Jacks Professor of Education, Stanford Graduate School of Education</li> <li>• <b>Christopher J. Lemons</b>, Professor of Education, Stanford Graduate School of Education</li> <li>• <b>Tye Ripma</b>, Postdoctoral Scholar, SCALE Initiative, Stanford Graduate School of Education</li> <li>• <b>Lindsey Kaler</b>, Postdoctoral Research Associate, Annenberg Institute, Brown University</li> </ul>
2:45 – 3:00 p.m.	<b>Break and Transition</b>
3:00 – 3:30 p.m. <i>Galleria</i>	<p><b>Fireside Chat</b></p> <p><b>Linda Darling-Hammond</b>, Chief Knowledge Officer, Learning Policy Institute; President, California State Board of Education, and <b>Sophie Fanelli</b>, President, Stuart Foundation</p>
3:30 – 3:45 p.m. <i>Galleria</i>	<p><b>Keynote Address</b></p> <p><b>Senator Sasha Renée Pérez</b>, Chair, California Senate Education Committee</p>
3:45 – 4:00 p.m. <i>Galleria</i>	<p><b>Closing Remarks</b></p> <p><b>Susanna Loeb</b>, Professor and Faculty Director, SCALE Initiative, Stanford Graduate School of Education</p>