

SUMMIT24

MARCH 25, 2024 | 3:30-4:45 PM

4N. The Improvement Scholars Network: Join us in bridging research & practice

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PRESENTERS:

- *Jennifer Lin Russell, Vanderbilt University*
- *Donald Peurach, University of Michigan*





THE IMPROVEMENT SCHOLARS NETWORK: JOIN US IN BRIDGING RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

DONALD J. PEURACH & JENNIFER L. RUSSELL ON BEHALF OF THE IMPROVEMENT SCHOLARS NETWORK

AGENDA

10 min	Introducing the ISN
5 min	Conceptualizing improvement research
5 min	Current ISN initiative: <i>Transforming Education in an Interconnected World</i>
5 min	Current ISN initiative: Landscape Study
30 min	Gathering input on our provisional vision for bridging the research and practice communities: rotation through stations
15 min	Station reports and whole group discussion



INTRODUCING THE ISN



WHAT IS THE IMPROVEMENT SCHOLARS NETWORK (ISN)?

- A diverse community of practical scholars and scholarly practitioners.
- Advancing improvement research & continuous improvement as an academic field, a domain of professional practice, and a focus of public policy.
- Shared commitment to empowering local educational professionals, families, and communities to heed calls for transformative change that expands educational access, quality, and equity for students.
- Objective of building a field of research committed to producing the practical knowledge needed to advance educational access, quality, and equity.



WHAT IS IMPROVEMENT RESEARCH?

An overarching term for approaches to local innovation that share four key characteristics:

- A focus on **local educational opportunities, needs, and problems** viewed as meaningful and consequential by local educational professionals, families, and communities.
- The use of **formal approaches** to iterative analysis, design, implementation, and evaluation to understand and address local opportunities, needs, and problems.
- **Inclusive organizational arrangements** that bring diverse perspectives and capabilities to the work of local innovation.
- **Cultural norms** that encourage appreciation of local strengths and assets, critical analysis of the status quo, and equity in the work and outcomes of local innovation.

Collaborative Leadership Board



Marisa Cannata

Professor of the Practice of Education
Policy and School Reform
Vanderbilt University



Lora Cohen-Vogel

Frank A. Daniels Endowed Chair of Public
Policy & Education
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill



Alan Daly

Professor and Director Educational
Leadership Doctoral Program
University of California, San Diego



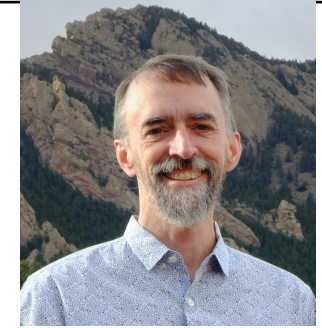
Amanda Datnow

Chancellor's Associates Endowed Chair in
Education Studies
Associate Dean of Social Sciences,
University of California San Diego



David Eddy-Spicer

Professor of Education
University of Virginia

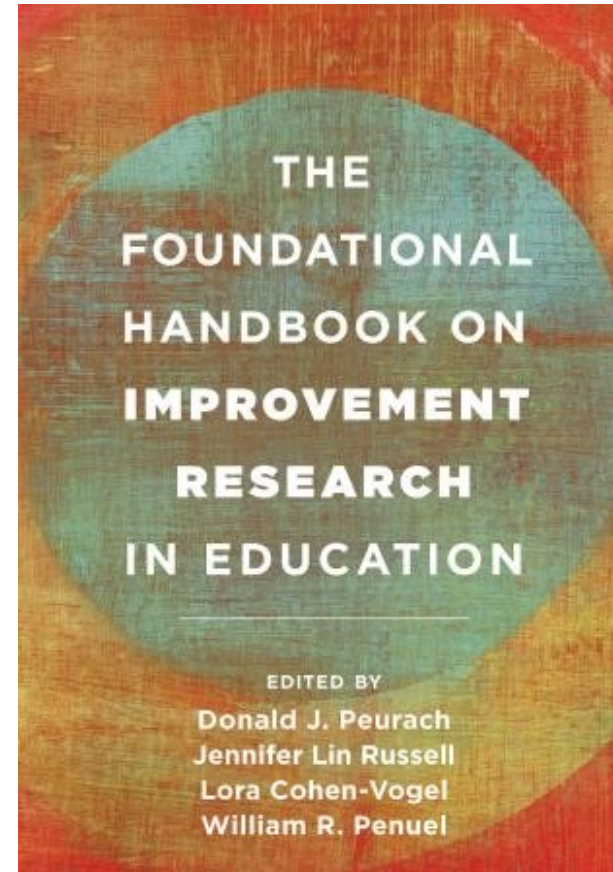


Bill Penuel

Distinguished Professor of Learning
Sciences and Human Development
Institute of Cognitive Science, School of
Education, Crown Institute at the
University of Colorado Boulder

FOUNDATIONAL HANDBOOK ON IMPROVEMENT RESEARCH

- Signature initiative of the Improvement Scholars Network
- Elaborates the intellectual foundations, explores the organizational and policy contexts, reviews approaches, and examines methods of improvement research.
- Features contributions from a plural community of researchers with expertise in the learning sciences, instructional improvement, organizational and policy studies, and research methodologies, many with extensive experience collaborating with teachers, leadership, families, and advocates in local problem solving and design



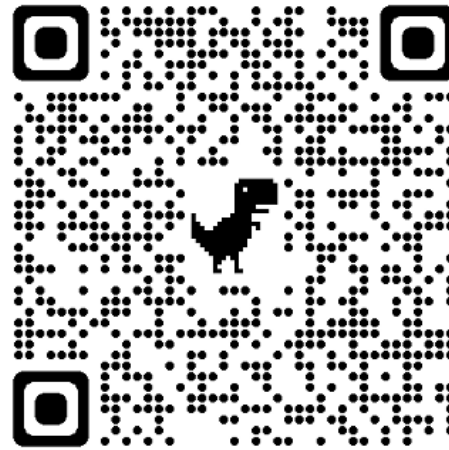


CURRENT ISN INITIATIVES: *TRANSFORMING
EDUCATION IN AN INTERCONNECTED WORLD*

INTRODUCING THE *TRANSFORMING EDUCATION* SERIES

A four-course open access professional learning series developed jointly by the UM EdHub for Community and Professional Learning and the Improvement Scholars Network:

- *Series Orientation*
- *Envisioning Educational Transformation*
- *Reimagining Educational Innovation*
- *Practicing Collaborative, Continuous Improvement*



Explore the Series



Join us on LinkedIn



CURRENT ISN INITIATIVES: LANDSCAPE STUDY



LANDSCAPE STUDY

- Represent the diversity of the IRE community with approaches including but not limited to design-based implementation research, community-based research, solidarity-driven co-design, and improvement science.
- Show the vast array of approaches that are under improvement research umbrella: identify the strong family resemblance and key points of differentiation among approaches.
- Analysis will yield a ‘landscape library’ of videos, materials, and other resources that showcase the diversity of improvement approaches and projects advanced by ISN members and their professional practice partners.



INFRASTRUCTURE TO BRIDGE RESEARCHERS & EDUCATIONAL PROFESSIONALS

YOUR INPUT ON NEEDS & POTENTIAL STRATEGIES



VISIT STATIONS TO PROVIDE YOUR INPUT ON DIFFERENT STRATEGIES

Stations

- Helping education professionals get started with improvement (e.g., introductory trainings) [Don Peurach]
- Leadership training [David Eddy-Spicer]
- Analytics infrastructure [Jenn Russell]
- Matchmaking: supporting the formation of partnerships between researchers & education professionals [Max Yurkofsky]
- What are we missing? Where do you need support? What kinds of infrastructure for improvement is missing in the field? [Brandi Hinnant-Crawford]

Structuring our Time

- We recommend you pick 3 stations to visit
- We will prompt transition approximately every 10 minutes
- If you really want to visit more than 3 stations, we leave it up to you to self-monitor timing and transitions



STATION LEADS REPORT ON DISCUSSION



Thank you for attending!

Instructions for completing the session feedback survey:

Click on the **Survey Button** at the bottom of the session page *or* **access your profile page** and click on 'Surveys' to find the survey for this session

IMPROVEMENT IN EDUCATION

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