

## ***Making an Impact: Translating Education Research into Policy and Action***

### **Abstract:**

This session will provide a forum for graduate students to discuss how education can be translated into policy and action. As emerging scholars in an applied field, many graduate students in the Education Department believe in the importance of conducting research that can have an impact in schools and communities. This is often what motivates us to pursue a graduate degree in the first place. Our training, however, primarily prepares us to share our scholarship with an academic audience. While such training is crucial for our ability to contribute to a shared and cumulative knowledge base about education, we also need to be able to communicate with a broader set of audiences—i.e., teachers, parents, students, school and district administrators, state and federal education agencies, and elected officials. In this session, we will raise questions about the relationship between research and policy, which we will begin to answer as a group. What is the role of researchers in educational policy? In what ways have faculty and students used research to inform educational policy? What challenges and concerns do faculty and students face when trying to communicate their work to multiple audiences? How can students interested in education policy get involved?

As reflected in this year's conference theme, it is more essential than ever that researchers ensure that our findings are shared clearly with the appropriate stakeholders. By collaborating with policymakers, we can advocate for the continuing use of evidence to inform education policy.

### **Call for participation instructions:**

This session will be a rotating roundtable during which participants engage in discussions with people who are interested in similar topics surrounding education policy. In order to participate in the session, please send an email to Anne Blackstock-Bernstein ([annebb@ucla.edu](mailto:annebb@ucla.edu)), stating your two preferred education policy topics (e.g., DACA, school-to-prison pipeline, affirmative action, K-12 assessment systems, special education, teacher recruitment and retention, early childhood, bilingual education and English learners, ESSA). Final topics will be determined based on student interest and faculty availability. Please also propose one or more questions you have about either translating research to policy or policy-related careers. Participants' questions will be compiled and used to structure the discussions at each table. After the roundtable discussions, each group will present key takeaways and share their ideas for making a meaningful impact with our research.

### **Name of Session Organizers:**

Anne Blackstock-Bernstein, Nicole Mancevice, Alejandra Martin

### **Contact information:**

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