“Using On-Track Trajectories to Narrow Achievement Gaps”
Presentation by Julian R. Betts, San Diego Education Research Alliance at UCSD and Ron Rode, San Diego Unified School District

The presentation will report on a two-year IES Researcher-Practitioner grant in which researchers at UC San Diego and San Diego Unified School District (SDUSD) have worked collaboratively to develop on-track forecasts for students in SDUSD, for a variety of future outcomes. The presentation will give examples of the logit models estimated to forecast academic outcomes such as on-time graduation, completion of the expected number of courses by grade 9, and subject matter proficiency in various grades. Using these analyses, the researchers and practitioners have summarized trends over time in the percentage of students on- and off-track, overall and by language and special education status, and by grade, as well as decompositions for the reasons why a given student or group of students may be off track.

The second part of the presentation will discuss the work underway at SDUSD to use these forecasts using dashboards that will be available to principals, counselors and teachers, and the challenges inherent in making such data useful to practitioners as they seek to boost student achievement.