

SREE 2018 Invited Panel

Section: Research ↔ Practice in Local Educational Agencies

From huddle to handoff: Planning for agency independence in a post research-practice partnership world

This invited panel will explore how research-practice partnerships (RPP) can most effectively transition from truly collaborative endeavors to sustainable initiatives led primarily by education agency staff. Successful partnerships typically embody a few key characteristics: a focus on problems of practice, long-term commitment, mutualism, and the development of original analyses (Penuel & Gallagher, 2017). Yet at some point, education agencies need to plan for sustainability. How do they do this? What role do external research partners play in facilitating it?

This panel has three aims. The first is to describe the strengths team members bring to particular projects. Such projects can include ad-hoc initiatives between two researchers from different organizations or comprehensive research agendas with multiple stakeholders. From communication to fundraising to analytic skills, the panelists will describe the personal attributes and leadership qualities that maintain RPP momentum. The second aim to discuss the relationship building activities necessary to support collaborative research. How often do partners meet? How does the partnership facilitate professional development? The third aim is to explore the mechanisms through which advanced RPPs are handed off from the collaborative group to an agency-centric team. This line of inquiry acknowledges the fact that not all RPPs live forever and that at some point, for some projects, education agencies must carry the work in pursuit of their goals.

Participants

Kylie Klein, Director of Research Operations, UChicago Consortium on School Research

Julie Reed Kochanek, Managing Director, AIR and Director, REL Midwest

Joy Lesnick, Director, Research, Policy, and Practice Office of Evaluation, Research, and Accountability School District of Philadelphia

Matthew Lenard, who leads research-practice partnerships at the Wake County (NC) Public School System, will moderate the session.

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