

**Save the Date:**

November 19 at 5 p.m. | Virtual Event

**Lecture Title:****Partnerships between Practice and Research: Being True to Building  
*Both* Local Capacity *and* Field-Relevant Knowledge****LOUIS GOMEZ**

*Professor of Education and of Information  
Studies, University of California, Los Angeles  
Senior Fellow at the Carnegie Foundation  
for the Advancement of Teaching*

Learning & Social Scientist,  
Collaborative Education Improvement Researcher



SIMON INITIATIVE DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

Louis Gomez is professor of education and of information studies at UCLA and a senior fellow at the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching. As a social scientist dedicated to educational improvement, his research and design efforts are aimed at helping to support community formation in schools and other organizations, so that they can collaboratively create new approaches to teaching, learning and assessment.

With colleagues, he has worked to bring “Networked-based Improvement Science” to the field of education. This work is aimed at helping the field take a new perspective on design, educational engineering and development efforts that catalyze long-term, cooperative initiatives. The work gains much of its power because it is carried out in highly focused collaborations that Gomez and colleagues call Networked Improvement Communities.

Gomez received a bachelor’s degree in psychology from the State University of New York at Stony Brook in 1974 and a doctorate in cognitive psychology in 1979 from UC Berkeley. He previously served as the MacArthur Foundation Chair in Digital Media & Learning from 2011 to 2016. Before joining the UCLA faculty he was the Helen S. Faison Professor of Urban Education and senior scientist at the Learning Research and Development Center (LRDC) at the University of Pittsburgh. Gomez became a member of the National Academy of Education in 2014.

**LECTURE ABSTRACT**

For over a hundred years, the idea of partnership between K-12 school districts and postsecondary schools of education has been ripe with promise but has proved to be disappointing in actual outcomes. Partnerships are commonly seen as a way to redefine the field of education. In this conversation, Gomez offers the iLead project as a backdrop to discuss a new approach to catalyzing partnerships between school districts and higher education by focusing on the *how* dimensions of partnerships. Through improvement science disciplining the *how* of the collective work of each partnership, this work is showing early indications of synergy that jointly support local capacity building while also producing the potential for field-level benefits.

**RESEARCH**

Gomez’s research with the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching focuses on the [iLEAD network](#), which uses improvement science to address system problems and promote equitable education. This work focuses on the quality of educational improvement through networked improvement communities as explained in this [Frontiers in Sociology of Education article](#). In this [article](#), Gomez and colleagues provide a framework for developing network improvement communities. They also provide more insight into the transformation of a network improvement community through a shared problem of practice in [Phi Delta Kappan](#).