Opening or Closing Doors for Students?  
Equity and Data-Informed Instruction

Guest Lecture by Amanda Datnow, Professor  
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Monday, February 27, 2017  
12:00 – 1:00 pm, Education 2010

Abstract: Ensuring equitable opportunities and outcomes for all students is a top priority of many educators and policymakers. Data-informed decision making can be an important lever for achieving equity, but how this can occur is not well understood. Drawing on findings from in-depth qualitative research, this presentation will illuminate the conditions under which data use efforts in schools can help to open -- or close -- doors for students. Through a careful examination of day-to-day practices in schools and systems, this presentation will uncover how thoughtful data use practices can expand students’ opportunities to learn, whereas misinformed use of data can limit their opportunities.

Bio: Amanda Datnow is a Professor in the Department of Education Studies and Associate Dean of the Division of Social Sciences at the University of California, San Diego. Her research focuses primarily on K-12 educational reform and policy, particularly with regard to issues of equity and the professional lives of educators. She is currently engaged in two major research projects on the use of data to inform teaching and learning. These studies are aimed at uncovering best practices in data use and building educators’ capacity to use data effectively. Datnow has also conducted research on the pathways to postsecondary education for low-income students. Across her studies, she uses qualitative research methods in order to provide a detailed examination of school practices and of educators’ and students’ experiences with educational change. She is author or editor of seven books and over 60 articles and book chapters. Her most recent book is Data Driven Leadership (Jossey Bass, 2014). Datnow is on the editorial boards of several journals and consults for numerous professional organizations and government agencies.