International Assessments: Trends, Myths, and Future Issues

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Abstract: The United States participates in two major international assessments: The Trends in Math and Science Study (TIMSS) and the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA). This talk will focus on trends in U.S. performance on the two tests, discuss myths that are common in media coverage and public perception of test results, and present potentially controversial issues that are lurking on the horizon.

Bio: Tom Loveless holds a PhD in education from the University of Chicago, an MA in special education from California State University, Sacramento, and an AB in English from the University of California, Berkeley. From 1979 to 1988, Loveless was a classroom teacher in the San Juan Unified School District, near his hometown of Sacramento, serving on numerous state and local curriculum committees. After receiving his Ph.D. in 1992, he joined the faculty of Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government, where he served as both assistant and associate professors of public policy until 1999. Loveless was selected as a National Academy of Education Spencer Post-Doctoral Fellow in 1995. From 2004 to 2012, Loveless represented the United States at the General Assembly of the International Association for the Evaluation of Educational Attainment, a 60-nation organization that governs international testing. From 2006 to 2008 he served on the President's National Mathematics Advisory Panel. Loveless was a member of the Koret Task Force on K-12 Education at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University from 2008 to 2014. Loveless has authored articles in the Wilson Quarterly, Education Next, American Journal of Education, Educational Policy, Educational Leadership, Educational Administration Quarterly, and Educational Evaluation and Policy Analysis. His op-eds have been published in The Christian Science Monitor, Los Angeles Times, Wall Street Journal, Newsday, The Washington Post, USA Weekend, The New York Times and Education Week.