Few would argue that public education must be an important part of addressing some of our greatest challenges. At no time in our history has the need been more acute for innovation to improve education. These innovations must at the same time improve classroom instruction and engage leaders and communities to improve the likelihood of schools’ effectiveness. Efforts to improve educational outcomes must be coupled with an intense focus on employing research methodologies to determine which innovations are effective and when. This talk will illustrate how the faculty of the Simmons School of Education at SMU are building a culture of evidence-based educational practice in the preparation of teachers and school leaders and will focus on a specific community-university partnership designed to end poverty by improving educational access and outcomes.

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