



Ronald F. Ferguson, Harvard University

Elements of a Movement for Excellence with Equity

Friday, March 13, 2015

12:00 - 1:30 p.m.

The School of Business One (#222 on campus map) Room 2200

This presentation asserts the necessity of a twenty-first century movement for achieving excellence with equity. For most of our nation's history, it was taken for granted that academic skill levels among some groups would be lower, on average, than for others. Indeed, a culture of White supremacy maintained a division of labor that relegated people of color disproportionately to jobs in which academic skill was not a requirement. Several contemporary trends warrant birth-to-career changes in how the nation prepares all children for life in the twenty-first century. I describe those trends and propose key elements of a movement befitting this moment in history.



Bio: Ronald F. Ferguson has taught at Harvard since 1983, focusing on education and economic development. His research and writing for the past decade have focused on racial achievement gaps, appearing in a variety of publications. His most recent book is *Toward Excellence with Equity: An Emerging Vision for Closing the Achievement Gap*, published by Harvard Education Press. He is the creator of the Tripod Project for School Improvement and also the faculty co-chair and director of the Achievement Gap Initiative at Harvard University. After 31 years as full-time faculty, he has moved into an adjunct position and is focusing the majority of his time on research and writing. Professor Ferguson earned an undergraduate degree from Cornell University and PhD from MIT, both in economics.