

PROFESSOR LINDA DARLING-HAMMOND

Doctor of Laws, *honoris causa*

Professor Linda Darling-Hammond has enjoyed a distinguished career as an education scholar with an outstanding record of commitment to education, government, and equity over a period of almost five decades. She is among the most cited educational researchers in the world, continues to have an immense impact on educational policy, and leads research in teacher expertise, development and professionalism. She has written over 30 books, won almost every major award, and has ranked #1 or #2 for many years in Scholar Public Influence Rankings in education.

Following an early career as a teacher's aide and English teacher, she went on to become a researcher in a Law Centre, then a Senior Research Associate at the National Urban Centre, then became Director of the Education and Human Resources Program at the Rand Corporation. She then progressed to become a Professor at Teachers College Columbia University, and since 1998 has been the Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education at Stanford University, the President and CEO of Learning Policy Institute, and the President of the California State Board of Education.

She continues to have a high profile and influence as the Charles E. Ducommun Professor of Education Emeritus at Stanford University, as founding president of the Learning Policy Institute (one of the most highly-regarded sources for policy), as a member of the American Association of Arts and Sciences and of the National Academy of Education, and as president of the California State Board of Education. She was advisor to Senator, then to President, Barack Obama and director of his education policy transition team in 2008. She was the most important contributor to the demise of the U.S. *No Child Left Behind Act* policies, which not only had little positive impact on U.S. education but also produced serious negative unintended consequences, particularly for minority and lower socio-economic students across the U.S. The new legislation, the *Every Student Succeeds Act*, is much more aligned to the best educational research, embeds multiple measures of student learning and school quality, and reflects the importance she places on a process of continual system improvement grounded in professional learning for teachers.

She has had a profound impact on educational policy, with outstanding work in the field. She has led the education profession as President of the American Educational Research Association, Director of the National Commission on Teaching and America's Future, and founding member of the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. This work is now the basis of initiatives in many countries around the world, including Australia.

Her research work is focused on school funding, teaching, systems for managing teaching and learning, redesigning schools to personalize and improve the quality of instruction especially for students of colour in low-income communities, and this work is driven by a concern with issues of equity, focusing on success for all. In a recent Education Week analysis of the most influential U.S. educators she was # 1 on all indicators (h-index, book points, highest Amazon rating, syllabus points, newspaper mentions, education press mentions, web mentions, and congressional record mentions). She has published over 30 books, and these have won nearly all the major awards available (AERA Outstanding Book Award, Grawemeyer Award, Pomeroy Award), and has received over 70 prestigious awards and many honorary doctorates over the course of her career.

We have a better education world due to Linda Darling-Hammond's thinking, writing, actions, and influence. We have a better education professoriate due to her systematic empirical research, and her actions as a leader.