The UC Davis Forums on the Public University and the Social Good

Thursday, February 21, 2019

Can Universities Serve the Public Good? Using Rigorous Research for Social Impact

Adam Gamoran

President, William T. Grant Foundation

Adam Gamoran is the President of the William T. Grant Foundation, a charitable organization that has two main priorities: supporting research on programs, policies, and practices to reduce inequality in youth outcomes; and supporting research on ways to improve the use of research evidence in policy and practice. He also currently chairs the Board on Science Education of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine, and he is an elected member and vice president of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the National Academy of Education.

Prior to assuming the leadership of the Foundation, President Gamoran held the John D. MacArthur Chair in Sociology and Educational Policy Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he spent three decades engaged in research on educational inequality and school reform. He was twice appointed by President Barack Obama to the National Board for Education Sciences. His recent writing includes essays such as "The future of educational inequality: What went wrong, and how can we fix it?" (William T. Grant Foundation, 2015) and research articles including "Does racial isolation in school lead to long-term disadvantages? Labor market consequences of high school racial composition" (*American Journal of Sociology*, 2016).

In his remarks, President Gamoran will argue that universities should do more to support research that benefits society by responding to the pressing problems of the day. He will lay out a strategy for institutions to incentivize this type of work by supporting partnerships between researchers and public agencies or private nonprofit organizations.

Lecture:
2:30 to 4 p.m.
Community Room
International House

Reception:
4 to 4:30 p.m.
Lounge
International House

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