

Academic Year 2015 – 2016.

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Richard Light is the Carl H. Pforzheimer Professor of Education. His Ph.D. is from Harvard in Statistics. Light has been asked by four Harvard presidents over the past twenty years, Derek Bok, Neil Rudenstine, Larry Summers, and now Drew Faust, to explore ways to improve the undergraduate experience both at Harvard and also for a diverse group of other, quite different colleges. To accomplish this he created the Harvard Assessment Seminars, a consortium of leaders from 25 colleges and universities, with the common goal to carry out research on enhancing college effectiveness.

The Harvard Assessment Seminars has led Light to create and chair three additional projects. One is The “HGSE Higher Education Leaders Forum.” This new initiative developed together with HGSE Dean Jim Ryan will introduce young campus faculty leaders to emerging challenges for leading universities. The first session is scheduled for January, 2016. A second activity is a collaborative effort now led by friend and colleague Howard Gardner, to explore the topic of “Liberal Arts for the 21st Century.” This project is expected to run through 2017. For a third project, Light has organized campus leaders from Harvard, Brown, Duke and Georgetown to work collaboratively, to develop a new project designed to explore and enhance the experiences of First Generation Students at highly selective campuses. This effort focuses on enhancing First Generation student success both inside and outside of the classroom. It also is expected to continue through 2017.

Light is author of *Making the Most of College: Students Speak Their Minds* (2004). This book won The Stone Award for best book on education and society. It has become one of the three best selling books in the 100-year history of the Harvard University Press. He is coauthor of *Summing Up: The Science of Reviewing Research* with David Pillemer, 1984); and he is co-author of *By Design: Planning Research on Higher Education* (with Judith Singer and John Willett, 1990), both published by Harvard Univ. Press. He has been Chairman of the Panel on Youth for the National Academy of Sciences, elected President of the American Evaluation Association, and a member of the National Advisory Boards of the U. S. Government Accountability Office and the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. Light is an elected Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and of The National Academy of Education. Light has won the Paul Lazarsfeld Award for distinguished contributions to science, and has been named by Vanderbilt University’s Chancellor’s Lecture Series as one of America’s great teachers.