

**Academic Year 2018 – 2019.**

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Richard Light is the Carl H. Pforzheimer Professor of Teaching and Learning. His Ph.D. is from Harvard in Statistics. Light has been asked by five Harvard presidents over the past twenty years, Derek Bok, Neil Rudenstine, Larry Summers, Drew Faust, and now Larry Bacow, 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 co-chair several additional projects. One is The Young Faculty Leaders Forum, which invited 30 young faculty from sixteen universities across the country to work together to enhance transitions from K-12 Schools to colleges. A second has been the “Forum for Excellence and Innovation in Higher Education.” This five year activity brought together thirteen excellent campuses and their leaders to try innovations and to rigorously assess their impact on students’ learning. A third activity is that Light created and Chairs the Harvard Higher Education Leaders Forum, that brings together rising future campus leaders each year for discussion and debate about changing campus needs. Fourth and most recently 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 has focused on enhancing First Generation student success both inside and outside of the classroom. It also is expected to continue through 2019.

Light is author of *Making the Most of College: Students Speak Their Minds* (2001). 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, President of the American Evaluation Association, and a member of the National Boards of the U. S. Government Accountability Office and the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education. Light is a Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of The National Academy of Education. He 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.