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MEDIA ADVISORY

J-PAL NORTH AMERICA HOSTS CONFERENCE AT MIT ON EDUCATION TECHNOLOGY, PERSONALIZED LEARNING AND THE DIGITAL DIVIDE

J-PAL North America will host educators, leading academics, former White House officials, and education companies at MIT to discuss how rigorous research can improve the use of technology in education, advance personalized learning, and increase access for students from low-income communities.

CAMBRIDGE, MA -- On Friday, March 31st, J-PAL North America will bring together education experts at MIT to explore how rigorous research can improve the effectiveness of technology in education and close the learning gap between high- and low-income students.

“The digital revolution holds tremendous promise for revolutionizing the way we learn, giving educators new tools to target instruction to individual learners’ needs and helping kids who are struggling to catch up,” said Quentin Palfrey, executive director of J-PAL North America. “But we need more evidence about what works to help target precious resources towards the most effective approaches, and to ensure that all children have access to impactful and cost-effective approaches to learning.”

At this MIT conference, a broad group of education stakeholders will discuss the current evidence in technology-enabled and personalized learning, explore evidence-informed practices to bridge the “digital divide,” share insights around how to identify and act on research opportunities in diverse learning environments, and highlight promising innovations where more research is needed.

Karen Cator, CEO of Digital Promise, will deliver the keynote address. Additional featured speakers include Emary Aronson (Managing Director of Education, Robin Hood Foundation), Aneesh Chopra (the first U.S. Chief Technology Officer), Ken Eastwood (Superintendent, Middletown City School District), David Edelman (former Special Assistant to President Obama for Economic & Technology Policy), Tom Kane (Professor of Education, Harvard Graduate School of Education), Kumar Garg (former Senior Advisor in the White House Office of Science & Technology Policy), and Phil Oreopoulos (Professor of Economics at the University of Toronto).

WHAT: Research and Innovation: EdTech, Personalized Learning & the Digital Divide

WHEN: Friday, March 31st, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM EST

WHERE: Samberg Conference Center, 7th Floor, 50 Memorial Drive, Cambridge, MA 02142

The conference will be live streamed at <https://www.povertyactionlab.org/event/research-and-innovation-edtech-personalized-learning-digital-divide>.

J-PAL North America is a regional office of the Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab, a research center at MIT’s Department of Economics. Established with generous support from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and the Laura & John Arnold Foundation, J-PAL North America works to improve the effectiveness of social programs through research, policy outreach, and capacity building.