Plenary Abstract

“Instruction and Its Improvement: The Infrastructure Challenge”

James Spillane
Spencer T. & Ann W. Olin Professor of Learning & Organizational Change
Northwestern University

Maintaining and improving the quality of classroom instruction ultimately depends on designing and implementing organizational infrastructures to support teaching and its improvement. Infrastructure design and redesign is critical for school and school district leaders as they work to improve classroom teaching and student learning. This presentation examines how school and district leaders transform their formal organizational infrastructure through the design and deployment of organizational routines, leadership positions, new curricula and so on. Key components of infrastructures for improving instruction will be identified and those features of infrastructures that increase their influence will be discussed. The presentation explores how these infrastructure redesign efforts transformed everyday interactions about instruction inside schools and school districts.