Integration as Public Education Policy: Reflections on the Contours of Inequality

ABSTRACT: Integration is a ubiquitous concept in the immigration literature, but segregation—its opposite—dominates academic discourse about public education. I argue that restoring the nation’s unconditional commitment to quality public education is essential not only to revive economic mobility and restore broadly shared prosperity, but also to broaden the national project of integration beyond race and national origins.

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Professor Tienda has authored or co-authored over 200 scientific papers and chapters about U.S. racial and ethnic inequality, international migration, variations in family structure and reproductive behavior, and access to higher education. Her current research focuses on intermarriage, educational opportunity, and the implications of adolescent romantic relationships for emotional and physical wellbeing.

Currently Dr. Tienda serves as an independent trustee of the Teachers Insurance Annuity Association (TIAA), the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the Jacobs Foundation of Switzerland, and the Robin Hood Foundation. Previously she served on the boards of Brown University, the Federal Reserve Bank of New York, the W.T. Grant Foundation, the Carnegie Corporation of New York, the Kaiser Family Foundation, and the Russell Sage Foundation.

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