

#EducatorVoices: Defining Intelligence Too Narrowly – Dr. Sam Johnston

Dr. Sam Johnston 0:00

I always want people to understand UDL because I think it's powerful, but I always want people to walk away and think about: Have we been defining intelligence too narrowly, and what's the problem with that? I mean, I think there's so many people who get left out when we are saying to people, 'Do it this way. You know, this is the way to be intelligent. This is the way to be capable.' There's so many ways to be capable. There's so many qualities we need in the world. For us to be really successful as a society, we have to be different, right? We can't have all the same qualities, or we'd never solve a single problem. You need people who are more cautious. You need people who are more daring. You need people who are truly going to see people on a level that other people don't. We need all these things to be successful, and so, I think UDL helps us, right? I think communities of practice help us too, but I really think that we have to wrestle with the harm we've done by really defining intelligence too narrowly, and we have to undo that. And I hope UDL can help us get there.