

## ABSTRACT

We are living in interesting times in our global world community. Technology has made it possible to exchange ideas, grow economies, build new markets, and keep abreast of the latest research findings. Economies around the world however have suffered greatly in recent years despite all of these achievements. Education has become a political football for the economic woes of many countries.

The USA in particular received disturbing news from the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) that the results from the Program for International Student Assessment (PISA) in 2009 showed that the USA was not in the top 10 of the 65 countries surveyed. In fact, the PISA report placed the USA 14<sup>th</sup> in Reading, 25<sup>th</sup> in Math, and 17<sup>th</sup> in Science. A lot of blame for this situation has been placed on teacher education, and there has been a call for more teacher accountability, and more student assessment. To this very day there is increased negativity in the news regarding the US education system, but a number of other important variables affecting the results have been given scant attention.

This presentation will analyze the PISA results, specifically the role of immigration and poverty rates in the US and a number of selected countries, and examine the implications for the future of education in the United States.