

Featured

# LECTURE IN DATA SCIENCE



## **Mary Jo Madda**

Mary Jo is Senior Editor at EdSurge. Previously, she taught middle school math/science with Teach for America (Houston corps '09), KIPP Houston, and the Archdiocese of Los Angeles at St. Cyril of Jerusalem School, where she also served as an administrator, curriculum coordinator, and decathlon coach. Following her years teaching, she worked on the ScratchED team at the MIT Media Lab, and served as an Education Entrepreneurship Fellow at the Harvard University Innovation Lab while piloting an educational media start-up. Mary Jo has an Ed.M. from the Harvard Graduate School of Education and a B.A. from Northwestern University. Most recently, she was featured on the Forbes "30 Under 30" list for 2016.

Presented by :  
**THE DATA SCIENCE INSTITUTE +  
CURRY SCHOOL OF EDUCATION**

## 2016 SPRING SPEAKER

MONDAY  
APRIL **18** **MARY JO MADDA**  
Senior Editor  
EdSurge  
**2:00 PM**  
Library Data Commons @ Curry  
Ruffner Hall

### **TOPIC: EDTECH, ESSA, AND THE SAT: IS THE USE OF DATA IN SCHOOLS DESTROYING K-12 INNOVATION?**

Ask any educator, education entrepreneur, or policymaker from the U.S., and they'll tell you that one of the country's most notorious (and controversial) student achievement indicators over the past 15 years has been high-stakes testing data. Harking back to the times of No Child Left Behind, high-stakes testing went through a recent transformation with the introduction of the Common Core, PARCC and SmarterBalanced—a collection of tech-based tests and skill-heavy standards that pushed content knowledge to the side.

But these tests have failed to gain traction, and with the recent passing of ESSA (Every Student Succeeds Act), which grants states more local control in testing and curriculum, a big question dangles in the air: exactly how are schools and districts going to assess students and handle data, and what actions could potentially hinder districts from innovating on practices reminiscent of a 1950s classroom?

Mary Jo Madda will delve into these questions, present innovative data practices from various school models, and more.

**For more information**  
contact the DSI at [datascience@virginia.edu](mailto:datascience@virginia.edu)