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**DEBORAH HUGHES HALLETT**, Harvard Kennedy School and University of Arizona  
*Harnessing the Curiosity of Today's Students—Tomorrow's Decision Makers*

Data illuminates many of the world's challenges—climate change, pandemics, inequality, injustice, recessions. Yet over the past few years there has been an uptick in skepticism: climate denial, vaccine hesitancy, and disinformation. What is the role of mathematics in these debates? This talk will argue that mathematics should embrace a major role. Engaging future citizens with data is our business—and arguably our responsibility—and certainly it is in the interest of society.

How do we engage students in understanding and critiquing data? We have a powerful ally in students' curiosity. While curiosity can't be dictated, it can be harnessed! Students see the world through their own lenses, yet we all share the same data. Harnessing their natural curiosity to gain insight into the world's challenges showcases the mathematical sciences as central to the students' and the world's future.