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## Improving Students' Learning: East Meets West in Mathematics Classroom

Online talk by

**Dr. Jinfa Cai**

Kathleen and David Hollowell Professor of Mathematics Education  
University of Delaware

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**3:30 - 5 p.m. Tuesday, October 26, 2021**

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Dr. Jinfa Cai is Kathleen and David Hollowell Professor of Mathematics Education at the University of Delaware, and a Fellow of American Educational Research Association. He served as the Editor-in-Chief for the *Journal for Research in Mathematics Education*, the top research journal in mathematics education around the globe. In 2018, he received the Webber Award, honoring his significant contribution to the State of Delaware's math education. He has served as Program

Director at the National Science Foundation. He has also served in various capacities in K-12 education, such as the Board Member of the Charter School of Wilmington and Core Team Member of Strategic Planning at Radnor Township School District.

**Abstract:** The focus of this presentation will be on the discussion of six insights from a series of studies involving Chinese and U.S. students. These insights include: (1) Having computational and routine problem-solving skills does not necessarily imply having non-routine, creative problem-solving skills; (2) Concrete experiences do not automatically lead to generalization and conceptual understanding; (3) Students can think algebraically in earlier grades; (4) Problem-based mathematics instruction has a positive impact on students' attitudes toward mathematics and achievement; (5) Teachers are at the heart of improving students' learning, but adequate support must take place; and (6) Parents play a motivational and monitoring role for students' learning. This talk will situate the discussion of the insights in a dialogue in a cultural context.