

Cathy N. Davidson

Author, *The New College Classroom*
Senior Advisor on Transformation to the Chancellor,
CUNY

*Redesigning higher education to meet the demands
of today's world*



Biography

Cathy N. Davidson is an author, educator, and academic thought leader best known for her work on institutional change and innovation in higher education. She offers research-backed insights on redesigning college curricula and teaching methodologies to meet the demands of the modern era with a core mission of setting students up for success in the classroom and preparing them for the world beyond it. Cathy is the Senior Advisor on Transformation to the Chancellor of the City University of New York (CUNY) and the founding director of CUNY's Futures Initiative, a program dedicated to advancing equity and innovation in higher education.

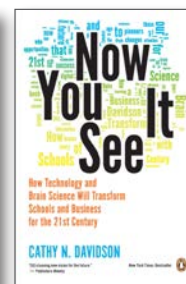
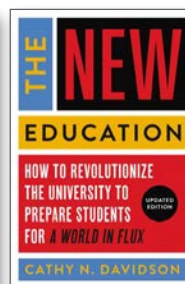
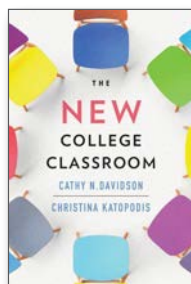
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Topics & Books

Education

Gaming

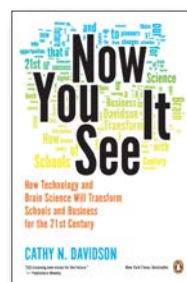
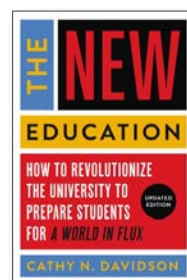
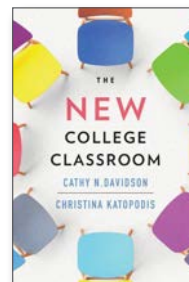
The Future of Higher Education



Davidson has authored and edited more than twenty books. Her most recent publications include the “How We Know” trilogy, concentrating on the science of learning: *Now You See It: How the Brain Science of Attention Will Transform the Way We Live, Work, and Learn*; *The New Education: How to Revolutionize the University to Prepare Students for a World in Flux*; and *The New College Classroom*. Both *The New Education* and *The New College Classroom* received the Frederic W. Ness Book Award, granting Cathy the distinction of being the first author in the history of the award to win it twice.

Throughout her career, Davidson has taught at a range of institutions, from community college to the Ivy League. At CUNY, she is a Distinguished Professor of English who also teaches in the Digital Humanities and Data Analysis and Visualization master’s programs at the Graduate Center. Over the course of her 25-year tenure at Duke University, she held two distinguished professorships and became the school’s (and the nation’s) first Vice Provost for Interdisciplinary Studies. She is co-founder and co-director of HASTAC (the Humanities, Arts, Sciences and Technology Alliance and Collaboratory — “Haystack”), a worldwide coalition of innovators transforming how we think and learn that is recognized as the world’s first and oldest academic social network.

Cathy Davidson has won many awards and grants from institutions including the 2025 Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education, the Guggenheim Foundation, the MacArthur Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, the National Endowment for the Humanities, and the National Science Foundation. She received the Ernest L. Boyer Award for “significant contributions to higher education,” the Educator of the Year Award from the World Technology Network, and the Arts and Sciences Advocacy Award from the Council of Colleges of Arts and Sciences. She has served on the Board of Directors of Mozilla, was appointed by President Barack Obama to the National Council on the Humanities, and has twice keynoted the Nobel Prize Committee’s Forum on the Future of Learning.



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