



Call for Proposals

NORTHEASTERN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (NERA)

45TH ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 22-24, 2014

Marriott Hotel, Trumbull, Connecticut

Conference Theme: “*Equity and Excellence in an Era of Accountability*”

Despite years of research, policy debates, and program refinements, inequality of opportunity continues to be one of the major problems in the United States today. Perhaps the most important reason for this lack of equality of opportunity is the quality and quantity of education that students receive. While racial segregation in society and schools has decreased, economic segregation has increased. The achievement gap between poor and rich students born at the beginning of this century is now about one-third larger than for those born 25 years earlier. In an era of greater educational accountability, what can and should we do, as educators and researchers, to help reduce inequalities of opportunity and to ensure equity and excellence for all students?

As a regional affiliate of the American Educational Research Association, NERA invites proposals for our annual meeting spanning all areas of educational research. We welcome proposals from new and experienced researchers and will consider both completed and in-progress research. Below you will find the general requirements for NERA proposals as well as specific guidelines corresponding to the four session formats. For more information about the conference, including FAQs about NERA proposals, visit NERA at www.nera-education.org.

Submission Requirements

Please keep in mind that should your proposal be accepted for presentation, the information will appear in the final program exactly as you have provided during the submission.

- Complete information for author(s)
- Affiliation information
- Descriptive title of 15 words or less
- Three keywords
- Abstract of 120 words or less
- Description of the proposal in **1000 words or less**, not including tables, figures, and references.
- Summaries of research should include: study purpose, theoretical framework, methodology, results, conclusions and educational implications. Warning: Proposals or full papers with more than 1000 words will not be accepted as conference proposals.

Submission Format

The proposal submission form will be online and accessible from the NERA website by May 1st, 2014. At the time of submission, authors will be required to select from a list of descriptive keywords to categorize the proposal.

Submission Review Process

- Proposals *must* be submitted electronically by **June 6th, 2014**
- 2-3 NERA members will blindly review proposals.
- Proposals will be judged according to the following criteria: educational or scholarly significance, perspective or theoretical framework, appropriateness of methodology, clarity of expression, and appeal to NERA membership.
- Proposal decisions will be emailed to first-authors in mid-August. Details about session dates and times will follow after as the program is completed.

SESSION-SPECIFIC GUIDELINES – 2014 NERA CONFERENCE

When submitting your proposal, you will be asked to indicate which of the following session formats you prefer for your research. We encourage submitters to select more than one possible option, as selecting multiple options increases your likelihood of acceptance. Regardless of the session you choose, your paper will be subjected to rigorous peer review by NERA volunteers. As each format provides a medium for contributing your research to the field, all session formats are equally important. We hope to maintain a variety of sessions this year to maximize the educational experience for NERA members.

1. Individual Paper Presentation:

Proposals should describe completed or nearly completed research to be presented in 10-15 minutes. Sessions will be organized so that 3-5 other individual presentations will be grouped according to similar research areas. In most paper sessions, a Discussant will be assigned to read the set of papers in advance and present a 10-15 minute synthesis, critique, or analysis of the set of papers to spur discussion.

2. Theme-Based Paper Session/Symposium:

Proposals should describe a set of 3-5 presentations organized around a common theme. The Chair and Discussant for this session must be identified in the proposal. The format and procedure for these sessions are identical to the *Individual Paper Presentation* sessions.

3. Individual Poster:

Proposals should describe a research project, either completed or nearly completed, that lends itself to a visual display and would benefit from informal individualized discussion and feedback. Similar to the individual paper presentations, each poster will have a discussant. Specific directions for the size of the poster will be posted on the NERA Conference website.

4. Roundtable Session:

Roundtable sessions allow maximum interaction among presenters and with attendees. There is greater emphasis on discussion between the authors and participants during a roundtable session. Each table will have 3-5 researchers of accepted papers clustered around shared interests. Each session will have a designated Chair knowledgeable about the research area, to facilitate interaction and participation, and when appropriate a Discussant will be assigned to a roundtable session as well.

Special call for teacher researchers!

This year, we are featuring a special call for teacher researchers to attend NERA and present their research. Please contact Salika Lawrence for more information about this special call at LawrenceS2@wpunj.edu, or by visiting the NERA website in early April.

Please complete the form at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NERAvol2014> if you are interested in volunteering to serve as a submission reviewer, session chair, or session discussant.

If you have any questions, please contact the conference co-chairs at NERAconference2014@gmail.com.

Thank you,

Pamela Kaliski, College Board
Ross Markle, Educational Testing Service
Javarro Russell, National Board of Medical Examiners
NERA 2014 Conference Co-chairs

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