

The NERA Researcher

The President's Message



Dear NERA Colleagues,

I am humbled and honored to be serving the organization and all of you as President through NERA's 54th conference in October 2023. I am excited to work with you to continue advancing NERA's mission to encourage and promote high-quality education research and to provide a venue for experienced and budding researchers. If you are new to NERA, please take a moment to review NERA's vision and statement on diversity [here](#).

Those familiar with NERA already know and cherish what we stand for and how committed we are to diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice. What we also hold dear and take pride in is our dedication to creating a safe and welcoming environment for graduate students as they embark on their professional journeys in the fun and often whimsical world of education research.

Before we look ahead to this year's initiatives, I'd like to take a moment to thank Past-President Nina Deng and the 2022 Conference Co-Chairs Kate Nolan, Beth Perkins, Frank Padellaro, and Duy Pham for planning and hosting such a wonderful conference last year. It was a tremendous success, especially considering this was our first in-person conference since COVID-19. I learned a lot about socio-emotional learning from Dr. Christina Cipriano in one of the most engaging presentations I've attended in a long time. I also enjoyed Dr. Darrell Earnest's talk on STEM research and equity and inclusivity, to name a few. Finally, a special thank you goes to Brandi Ediss, who captured some amazing photos during the conference that we'll be sharing in *The NERA Researcher*, on our website, and via social media in the coming weeks and months.

I want to welcome President-Elect Jonathan Steinberg and two new Board members: Kate Nolan and Thai Ong. Additionally, after consulting with the NERA Nominations Committee, I've appointed Steven Holtzman to serve a special nine-month term on the Board to replace Hank Johnson, who stepped down due to extenuating circumstances. I want to thank Steven and Hank for their continued support and service to NERA over the years in many different roles and efforts.

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The NERA Researcher

The NERA Researcher is the official newsletter of the Northeastern Educational Research Association.

Message from the Editors

Dear NERA Members,

Is it already March? Congratulations to everyone for making our first face-to-face conference in three years a great success.

Between excellent keynote presentations, erudite session, great entertainment, and simply being with friends, the conference co-chairs (Kate Nolan, Beth Perkins, Duy Pham, and Frank Padellaro) and Nina Deng deserve a loud round of applause. Check out the highlights in the upcoming pages.

Looking ahead to 2023, we are most fortunate to have Bo Bashkov as our new president along with his great conference co-chairs, Francis O'Donnell, Mina Lee, Sarah Ferguson, and Maura O'Riordan. We wish them great success. From a very reliable source, I understand that they have been diligently working to organize an exceptional conference with many exciting events planned and previewed in the coming pages.

You will be receiving information about the conference in the coming weeks, so keep an eye out for the call for proposals in April; and please consider submitting a proposal this year.

If you have thought of someone you think has given outstanding service and leadership to NERA consider nominating them for the Leo D. Doherty award. Or if you have a mentor who has been outstanding, consider nominating them for the Tom Donlon award. Finally, if you or a K-12 educator you know has conducted a school-related research project, consider nominating them for the Educator-as-Researcher award. The calls for nominations are in this issue.

On a sad note, I just learned that former *Researcher* editor, board member and president, Theresa Rooney, formerly of CUNY, passed away on December 3, 2022 from effects of a stroke. She was a great NERA member and I will miss her.

If you have ideas for articles or topics you want to see or have considered writing an article for in the *NERA Researcher*, please contact us at theneraresearcher@nera-education.org.

Finally, I'd like to give a special thanks to Kate Nolan for stepping in to help with the production while Michael is ill. Get well soon, Michael.

Stay safe and well,
Barbara J. Helms, Michael Wolter, and Kate Nolan, NERA *Researcher*, Editors

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Appointed Positions

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Next, I'd like to extend a warm welcome to the new committee chairs (Jennifer Randall, Tia Fechter, and Carol Barry) and all new committee members. A big THANK YOU goes to Matthew Speno, who was initially on the NERA 2023 conference team but has recently transitioned back to chairing the Graduate Student Issues Committee (GSIC), as well as to Barbara J. Helms, who is staying on as co-editor of *The NERA Researcher* for another year as we look for a new volunteer to fill this role. Lastly, congratulations to our award winners, Anne Heath, Maria Boeke Mongillo, and Thanos Patelis!

I would like to officially announce the NERA 2023 Conference Co-Chairs: Francis O'Donnell, Maura O'Riordan, Mina Lee, and Sarah Ferguson. This mighty team is already planning a great conference industriously, and I couldn't be prouder of their phenomenal work so far.

As we continue to emerge from the COVID-19 pandemic, we find ourselves in a very peculiar time with so many aspects of our lives still on the mend. This situation is especially evident in education, where so many teachers, learners, and professionals were affected. On top of this, we continue to grapple with racism, injustice, violence, oppression, and overseas—war. The economic effects of all these phenomena are obvious, but what about the enormous hardships they create for children, families, communities, and society overall? How do we make sense of it all? Where do we fit in, and why? When do we stand out, and why? In a reality where it is proving difficult to agree on what educational outcomes, materials, and methods are best for our kids, engaging families, communities, and technology to help all students learn seems futile, but is it?

To encourage us all to reflect on where we are and what comes next, this year's conference theme is ***Where do we go from here? Shaping the future of education together.*** Our hope is that this theme and the conference in October will spur conversations and inspire research that will inform policy and practice with the ultimate goal of shaping the future of education together. You will hear more about the upcoming conference in *The NERA Researcher* from the Co-Chairs. You will also see many updates via e-mail, our website, and social media, including our [new LinkedIn page](#). Be sure to follow and subscribe to notifications, so you don't miss anything. I think this addition will be a great way for us to interact even more with one another between conferences in a less structured way than webinars, for instance.

Other goals I will pursue in my presidency include working with Matthew Speno to re-engage graduate students via GSIC, seeking out conference sponsorships and perhaps additional streams of revenue to help us keep financial stability as a non-profit in economically volatile times, and last but not least, continuing the efforts of previous presidents to keep the NERA leadership pipeline steady so we can continue our reign as the best educational research association in the Northeast.

Best,

Bo Bashkov
NERA President

Member News

Alex Evangelista, *Borough of Manhattan Community College* and Anika Thrower were presenters at the 2022 conference. They are reaching out to NERA members as potential contributing authors for a book *Autoethnographic Approaches to Addressing the College Enrollment Crisis* (through IGI Global). The eligibility criteria are: Possess at least a graduate degree minority
Nontraditional student (i.e., earned degree over the age of 25)
Enjoys writing and can adhere to deadlines
The link to the official call for chapter proposal is <https://www.igi-global.com/publish/call-for-papers/call-details/6291>

Matthew Speno, GSIC Chair, is a Postdoctoral Fellow with the Center for Childhood and Youth Studies out of Salem State University. Dr. Speno is conducting a comprehensive literature review on how special population demographic groups in career and technical education (CTE) are served to ensure equitable access to technical educational pathways for high school graduation. Dr. Speno will use this research to develop further studies on the recruitment, retention, and graduation rates of these defined marginalized demographic groups. Matthew is also finishing a chapter for an edited book with an international focus on human rights in sports. His work, entitled *Human Rights, High School Sports, and Special Education Students* will be Chapter 15 in the book *Globalisation, Human Rights, Sports, and Culture*, which will be published by Springer in 2023. Dr. Speno conducts research through the lens of Diversity, Inclusion, Equity, and Justice.



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2022 Presidential Address: Supporting Student Learning: Assessments and Learning Analytics

Nina Deng, Kaplan Inc.



I started by thanking many important people who helped and supported me throughout my NERA career. It started with Ronald Hambleton, my advisor and the session organizer and co-author of my first paper presented at NERA in 2007. My professor Stephen Sireci introduced me to my first volunteering role, after which I could not stop. I worked through my first leadership role as the Membership Committee chair with then-Presidents John Young and April Zenisky. Moreover, I am deeply indebted to Charles DePascale and Rochelle Michel for their trust in me, allowing me to service NERA even further. I am most appreciative of the Past-President Steven Holtzman, the conference team (Beth, Duy, Frank, Kate), the Board, Committees, and members during my presidency, which made the year 2022 the most memorable and rewarding year in my life.

The 2022 conference theme was *Supporting Students Learning in a Dynamic Environment*. During the conference, I was impressed to welcome many innovative research studies focusing on supporting students learning. My address talked about supporting students learning through the lens of assessments and learning analytics, which I have been working on for the past decade.

One of the major criticisms that standardized testing often receives is that they do not provide instructional feedback for teaching and learning. Despite establishing the evidence of validity, reliability, and fairness to provide a sound metric to measure students' performance, the audience does not understand why the performance might be suboptimal and how to improve it. So what types of assessments are needed to support learning? First, a good assessment still needs to conform to all the standards that standardized testing has been following. Next, we need multiple forms of assessments to reflect the broad range of learning, including diagnostic, formative, interim, and summative assessments. Third, these different forms of assessments need to be content aligned and psychometrically scaled to establish measurability and provide students' learning status, trends, predictions, and interventions throughout the course. Last, the assessments will provide informative feedback, including how well the students perform overall and by skill and topic, how they compare to certain standards and benchmarks, and finally, how they will improve by providing suggested action items and resources.

The piece of actionable feedback warrants additional analysis beyond the testing and assessment data, which introduces the topic of learning analytics. Learning analytics refers to measuring, collecting, analyzing, and reporting data about learners and their interactions with a learning environment. It is a very interdisciplinary area encompassing learning science, data mining, assessment, learning management system (LMS), etc. It has grown rapidly during the last decade due to the widespread online learning and usage of LMS, especially during the pandemic. The LMS greatly facilitates collecting big data in the online learning environment, including students' performance, engagement, interaction, and process data. Analytics aims to understand the relationships between students' learning and various behaviors and outcomes. The studies would like to inform and advise students by suggesting an engagement threshold, a learning pattern, or interactions with a certain asset, to name a few examples.

I concluded my talk by quoting the famous cycle of learning, teaching, and assessment, which work hand in hand to promote the learning experience and optimize learning outcomes. I look forward to seeing more intelligent research studies in future conferences which explore the relationships of the three components and provide learner-centered, data-driven, and actionable insights to support students of all levels and their learning. Note: The presentation deck can be found [here](#)

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2022 Conference Report and Highlights

Kate Nolan, Frank Padellaro, Duy Pham, Beth Perkins
2022 NERA Conference Co-Chairs

The 2022 NERA conference team hopes you all had a wonderful holiday season and a Happy New Year! We had so many memorable moments during the conference from the beginning to the end. So let us take this opportunity to share with you some highlights.

Under the *Supporting Student Learning in a Dynamic Environment* theme, we had more than 100 speakers and researchers presenting in 44 sessions throughout the three days. Altogether, we had 221 participants attending the event for the first in-person conference after the pandemic. Throughout the conference, we kept hearing enthusiastic feedback about our keynote speakers, invited sessions, and the academic quality of our presentations.

Christina Cipriano's and Darrell Earnest's keynote presentations matched well with the conference theme and were insightful, entertaining, and inspiring. The training workshops were well attended and well received by the attendees. Many would agree that the Karaoke and performances by our NERA members on Thursday night were among the best social events we've had at the conference in recent years.

We want to thank our institutional sponsors for their incredible generosity! We received over \$25,000 in institutional sponsorships thanks to the support of our members at various organizations and institutions. We are also pleased to report that we beat conference expenses with a positive cash flow at the bottom line while keeping the registration fees affordable for our members and graduate students.

Below are some pictures that remind us of our wonderful time during the conference. All the photo credit goes to Brandi Ediss, spouse of our very own Frank Padellaro. More photos can be found [here](#).

Now we pass the baton to the 2023 NERA co-chairs and look forward to supporting them as they plan for our upcoming conference.

Thank you very much for participating in NERA 2022, and we are looking forward to seeing you all in Trumbull this coming October!

Nina Deng, Kate Nolan, Frank Padellaro, Duy Pham, Beth Perkins



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RESEARCH ASSOCIATION



2023 NERA Conference Announcement

October 18-20, 2023

Trumbull Marriott Shelton, Trumbull, CT

**Francis O'Donnell, Maura O'Riordan, Mina Lee,
and Sarah Ferguson**

Dear NERA Members,

Happy new year to everyone, and we hope you are all well and that your year is off to a good start. We are so excited to share with you our plans for the upcoming conference! Seeing everyone at the NERA 2022 conference motivated our work and our team has been working diligently on our conference planning. So we are particularly excited to share our conference theme for 2023:

Where Do We Go From Here? Shaping the Future of Education Together

The 2023 conference theme starts with a question: *Where Do We Go from Here?* How do we find a path forward in the aftermath of a pandemic and the face of learning disruptions, teacher shortages, and persistent areas of inequality? Today's challenges are complex and interconnected, calling for both reflection and action. Still, as a community of educators and researchers, we are uniquely positioned to find solutions. Our hope is that NERA members, current and new, will embrace this challenge and bring fresh observations, ideas, and perspectives to help advance our collective knowledge and expertise in areas such as:

- learning loss remediation, especially among marginalized groups;
- socio-emotional learning and reconciling pre-COVID expectations for learning and performance with a post-COVID reality;
- remote learning and assessment;
- academic and professional turnover and ways to attract and retain talent;
- leveraging technology and advanced analytics.

For this year's conference, we will encourage proposals that answer the question *Where do we go from here?* and address how educational researchers can help *shape the future of education together*. Additionally, we encourage proposals that critically reflect on what "together" means, evaluating who is involved in educational research and practice decisions, who is invited and who is responsible for these decisions, and who is not at the table when these conversations happen. Finally, we especially encourage researchers to examine these issues through a diversity, equity, inclusion, and justice (DEIJ) lens related to education and educational research. Our keynote speakers are intentionally aligned with this theme, and we cannot wait to hear from these two amazing scholars!

Keynote Speakers

Keynote: Dr. Jamila Lyiscott (Dr. J), Co-Director of the Center of Racial Justice and Youth Engaged Research, Associate Professor of Social Justice Education, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Keynote: Dr. Fabienne Doucet, Executive Director of the NYU Metropolitan Center For Research on Equity and the Transformation of Schools, Associate Professor of Early Childhood Education and Urban Education, New York University

The Call for Proposals will be released later this spring, with a call for Workshops first and a call for Conference Papers, Posters, and Symposia following. We hope you will submit your research and coordinated sessions in alignment with the following preliminary content strands:

- *Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion*
- *Educational Policy Challenges*
- *Higher Education*
- *Measurement and Psychometrics*
- *P-12 Educators as Researchers*
- *Research Methods*
- *Unfinished and Remote Learning*
- *Miscellaneous*

We also hope you will consider volunteering as a chair or discussant at this year's conference. We look forward to sharing more details regarding the 2023 NERA conference as we continue our planning for October, so keep an eye out for updates!

Your 2023 NERA Conference Co-Chairs,
Francis O'Donnell, Maura O'Riordan, Mina Lee, and Sarah Ferguson



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In Memoriam: Phil Archer 1941-2022



Dear Friends,

When I first met Phil Archer in the early 80s, he was one of the NERA elder-statesmen who had already been a member since 1969. Some of you younger members may remember Phil Archer because he always had a good joke (read the shirt he's wearing—only one of many) but was always supportive.

I only learned of Phil's death in October but he actually died on May 24, 2022. Phil was from New York and retired from Nassau BOCES (Board of Cooperative Educational Services). But I knew him over the years as a NERA board member and program co-chair and *Researcher* editor. In 1985-86 Phil was NERA president and in 1995 he received the Leo D. Doherty Award for

Outstanding Leadership and Service. Phil also mentioned was a very dedicated Chief of the Eaton's Neck Fire Department. Interestingly, his obituaries didn't mention BOCES but mentioned NERA and the fire department. It gives you a sense of what was really important to Phil.

I spoke to a couple of former NERA members who worked with him at the BOCES. Liz Gittman said that *"Among his many strengths, Phil was a great teacher. His warmth, good manners, unending smiles, and gentle encouragement led his team cohesively, happily, and successfully. His staff and consultants were devoted to him and worked diligently to meet goals. ... Phil Archer introduced me to NERA where I met many brilliant and intellectually generous people. My favorite expression about NERA—first articulated by Phil—remains:*

"This is the Northeastern Education Research Association. We are not as boring as we sound."

I asked Scott Brown about Phil because, like me, he had known him since the early 80s. He said that most current NERA members remember the Phil who had health problems following a serious car accident but *"he was a tall, baritone, and you always knew when he was in the room, whether raising a question or chuckling. He supported NERA like few others, serving in different NERA leadership roles and also as a member of important NERA committees. NERA is a great, long-standing, professional organization because Phil Archer was a big part of it. He will be remembered for the lives he touched, the encouragement he provided for emerging scholars and his gentleness. Phil Archer will be missed."*

In 2004, Phil and several other former presidents were asked to comment on their NERA experiences. I'd like to share two quotes from Phil: asked to describe how NERA impacted his professional evolution, he said *"I have learned a great deal at the meetings but more importantly, I have made many good friends."* And his advice to future NERA members and leaders was, jokingly, *"My only advice to the 'next generation' is to try to live up to my high standards. Since I do not think I have ever met a NERA member who was not able to do this, I think NERA will be fine."*

I have to agree with Liz and Scott, and Phil. Over the years, I had the great pleasure of knowing both sides of Phil, his supportive and generous side and his humorous, forever joking side. Chief Phil you will be missed.

Regards,
Barbara J. Helms

The Leo D. Doherty Memorial Award for Outstanding Leadership and Service

Sara Finney, James Madison University, 2022 Chair



Dr. Thanos Patelis **Director of Test Development and** **Assessment** **Johns Hopkins Center for Talented** **Youth**

The Leo D. Doherty Memorial Award is given to a longstanding NERA member who exemplifies the qualities that Leo Doherty brought to NERA members, his colleagues, and students throughout his career. The award, instituted by the NERA Board of Directors in 1981, honors the memory of Leo Doherty. He was

instrumental in developing and growing NERA as a professional association for educational researchers. His leadership qualities, both ethical and humane, encouraged others to pursue and achieve their goals.

The 2022 Leo D. Doherty Award recipient is **Dr. Thanos Patelis, Director of Test Development and Assessment at Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth**. Thanos embodies the characteristics that make him an ideal recipient of this award. In addition, Thanos has positively impacted NERA for decades. He has made NERA a better organization for all members in each role.

Speaking of roles and contributions to NERA, Thanos served as conference co-chair, board member, and co-editor of the NERA Researcher. He chaired the Nominations Committee, the Thomas Donlon Mentoring Award Committee, and the Teacher-as-Researcher Award Committee. Due to the diligence and guidance of Thanos, the NERA District/State Task Force brought together national and state experts in measurement at a special session at NERA. Efforts such as these expanded the vision of our research partners. Thanos also served as our NERA president in 2011.

In addition, Thanos consistently contributes content to our yearly conference by serving as a presenter, invited panelist, chair, and discussant of numerous sessions. He also actively recruits others to attend NERA and encourages new professionals and graduate students to pursue service and leadership roles. Personally, I (Sara Finney) observed a strengthening commitment by JMU faculty and students to NERA due to Thanos' investment in our program, research, and people. He made attending NERA every October feel like a cherished time with a trusted, old friend who was ready with a smile and words of encouragement.

From a nomination letter from the now Past-President, Dr. Steve Sireci of UMass:

"Dr. Patelis is a highly accomplished and experienced teacher and researcher who is well respected throughout the educational research, evaluation, and psychometric communities. He has made monumental contributions to NERA, which is why I think he is an ideal candidate for this prestigious

award. Dr. Patelis is an outstanding leader in so many ways. He has mentored numerous graduate students over the years, both as a Professor and when working at the College Board, and he has provided exemplary service to other organizations. More importantly, however, he leads by example. He has an impressive publication record for someone who has worked primarily outside of academia; he has influenced and supported countless researchers in their research and has helped promote and support many careers, including mine. In addition, he is always friendly, helpful, and supportive. Although he is incredibly busy, he has never rejected an opportunity to help our organization. He is enormously generous with his time and talent and has helped make NERA the successful organization it is today."

From Dr. Carol Barry, 2011 NERA Conference Co-chair, when Thanos was president:

"I had the privilege of serving as program co-chair during Thanos' presidency, and as such, I directly observed and benefitted from his leadership and service to NERA. Having recently been a co-chair himself, Thanos knew how challenging and time-consuming organizing the conference could be. As president, he was a wonderful guide and supportive presence to the co-chair team. He met with us regularly, helped us navigate many aspects of conference planning, and brought wonderful and innovative ideas to the process (including the first-ever NERA's Got Talent show!). Perhaps most notable is that he helped usher in a new era for the NERA conference, working with a vendor to transition the NERA program from a printed program book to a web-based, searchable conference program. In hindsight, that transition seems small; but it put NERA on the path to grow to where we are today. In addition to personifying the leadership qualities of the Doherty award, Thanos' warm spirit, jovial personality, and care for others has made NERA what we all know it to be: a family. I fully believe that NERA is a wonderful organization because it is made up of wonderful, caring people who are invested in one another—and Thanos is a prime example of this. Thanos' contributions and generosity of spirit have made NERA the organization and community it is today, and I can think of no one else more deserving of this award."

Thanos has given generously of himself to NERA. He has made NERA better for our entire professional community. Speaking for all the members of the Doherty Committee (Sara Finney, Elizabeth Stone, Steven Holtzman, and Tia Fechter), we congratulate Dr. Thanos Patelis, the 2022 Doherty Award Recipient.



ENDICOTT

COLLEGE

2023 Call for Nominations: The Leo D. Doherty Memorial Award for Outstanding Leadership and Service **Tia Fechter, Defense Personnel Analytics Center, Chair**

The Leo D. Doherty Memorial Award is presented to a longstanding NERA member who exemplifies the qualities that Leo Doherty brought to NERA members, his colleagues, and students throughout his career. The award, instituted by the NERA Board of Directors in 1981, honors the memory of Leo Doherty. He was instrumental in developing and growing NERA as a professional association for educational research.

His leadership qualities, both ethical and humane, encouraged others to pursue and achieve their goals. Thus, it is awarded to NERA members who have exhibited outstanding leadership and service to our organization.

Nomination letters should be in Word or PDF format and sent as an attachment to **Tia Fechter** at tia.m.fechter.civ@mail.mil no later than June 30, 2023. Nomination letters should explicitly name the nominee, including their e-mail and mailing address contact information, and offer a concise and compelling case for the candidate regarding their leadership and service to NERA.





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Thomas F. Donlon Memorial Award for Distinguished Mentoring

Jennifer Randall, University of Michigan, Chair

Dr. Maria Boeke Mongillo Central Connecticut State University



Dr. Maria Boeke Mongillo, currently an associate professor in Educational Leadership at Central Connecticut State University in New Britain, CT, has a long history in education, specifically teacher education. Dr. Mongillo has worked as both an elementary school teacher (1st and 2nd grade) as well as the instructional technology lead in Wilton, CT. Fortunately, for many students, she has channeled that prior experience as a classroom teacher into her work preparing and supporting other early childhood educators and leaders.

One colleague noted of Dr. Mongillo's mentorship of doctoral candidates that, "*Dr. Mongillo gives generously of her time and talents to support our candidates in their coursework, guides them through CAT [Connecticut Administration Test], and also provides advice on careers in administration,*" further noting that "*her breadth of experiences in schools*

and higher education have also enriched her mentorship of our candidates."

Letters of support for Dr. Mongillo highlighted her great capacity for providing guidance both as an instructor and an advisor/mentor. As one [first generation] doctoral student noted: "*Her timely constructive feedback shows her meticulous attention to detail while also elevating ideas and offering opportunities to extend our thinking.*" As an advisor, the same student wrote: "*She has given me the confidence to design a mixed methods explanatory sequential study and to send my survey out to almost 4,000 teachers this month.*"

This ability to inspire students and go above and beyond is echoed in other nomination letters. For example, "*Maria gives high quality and timely feedback, always making sure that she is available for me as a mentor. Many times I have met with Maria, she has gone out of her way to make sure it was at a time that worked for me rather than for her. For example, she met virtually with me in the theater between rehearsing scenes for the production she was in with her daughter. There is no limit to Maria's support, and I feel like we have developed an extremely meaningful relationship over the years.*"

To be sure, Dr. Mongillo has consistently served as a thoughtful, available, inspirational mentor for many years, and she has provided this mentorship and guidance while modeling honesty and integrity: "*Perhaps what I admire most in our advisor/advisee relationship is Dr. Mongillo's honesty and willingness to model vulnerability to learn alongside me. She communicates when she is unsure about something, and she collaborates with me regarding the best way to seek answers and resources in order to advise me correctly.*" Dr. Mongillo's commitment to students and the impact of that commitment beautifully personifies the values that the Donlon Award is intended to represent. As one student so eloquently wrote: "*I never thought I would have come this far in my educational process. However, every time I left one of her classes in my master's program, I was inspired, motivated, and excited about teaching, learning, and future leadership opportunities... As a result of Dr. Mongillo's mentorship, I decided to apply to the EdD program, where she was showing me unwavering support.*"

Speaking on behalf of the Thomas F. Donlon Committee, we thank Dr. Mongillo for her ongoing support of students encouraging them to be and do more.

**2023 Call for Nominations:
Thomas F. Donlon Memorial Award for
Distinguished Mentoring
Jennifer Randall, University of Michigan, Chair**

The Thomas F. Donlon Memorial Award for Distinguished Mentoring was established in 2000 in recognition of Tom's long and valued contributions to NERA, particularly as a mentor to many colleagues. Since then, the award has been presented annually to NERA members who have demonstrated distinction as mentors of colleagues by guiding them and helping them find productive paths toward developing their careers as educational researchers.

Mentoring in education has been going on for centuries, and most of us can name a person who helped us move our careers by being more than just a friend or colleague. That person may have been an advisor in developing your research agenda or perhaps brought you to NERA for the first time after suggesting that you might be ready for a conference presentation.

Nominations are again being sought for this annual award. Nominees must be NERA members and may be nominated by any members of NERA to whom they served as mentors. If you would like to see a member of NERA who was your mentor be recognized for their contributions to your success, send your nomination to Dr. Jennifer Randall by e-mail at **jennrand@umich.edu** by **June 30, 2023**. In addition to the nomination letter, all nominations must be accompanied by at least three letters of support indicating how the nominee distinguished themselves as a mentor. Up to five separate letters of support can be sent for each nominee. The award will be presented at the 2023 NERA conference. Please contact Jennifer if you have any questions about the Donlon Award or the nomination process.

Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper Award

Rochelle Michel, Smarter Balanced, 2022 Chair



Dr. Anne Heath Brookfield (CT) Public Schools

Congratulations to Anne Heath and co-authors on the paper, *The Impact of Teachers' Self-Efficacy Beliefs on Instructional Practices for English Language Learners*, for winning the 2022 Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper Award.

The award-winning paper used a mixed-methods design to examine the impact of teachers' self-efficacy beliefs and instructional practices when teaching English Language Learners (ELLs). Specific strategies and adaptive instruction using culturally relevant pedagogy, technology, and appropriate feedback were identified as successful techniques implemented with ELLs. The triangulated results revealed that when leadership provided professional learning, an inclusive curriculum, and collaborative

time, teachers' self-efficacy to instruct English Language Learners was positively impacted.

The award committee members rated the paper on its relevance, theoretical backing, clarity, design, analytical procedures, and presentation of results and conclusions and received the highest average rating by the Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper Award Committee. Anne Heath will receive a NERA travel stipend to present this paper at the 2023 American Educational Research Association meeting in Chicago.

The Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper Award is named in honor of Lorne H. Woollatt, a distinguished New York State educator and NERA member. It is awarded annually, and a plaque is given to the recipient at the subsequent year's conference (October 2023). Authors submitted their research papers from the 2022 NERA conference to the award committee for this competitive award. Any questions about the award can be directed to the committee chair, Rochelle Michel, at nera.woollatt.award.submission@gmail.com



American Board of Internal Medicine®

The Graduate Lounge

Graduate Student Issues Committee – GSIC

Matthew Speno, Salem State University, Chair

Hi! Matthew Speno here. I am the Chair of the Graduate Student Issues Committee at NERA. For the past several years, I have had the pleasure of experiencing how members of GSIC support one another as they continue down the path as budding scholars. In addition, I have attended some awesome Graduate Conference sessions and count my NERA family as an important pillar of who I am!

What we do in GSIC is simple but not easy! We support each other in our academic journey; we laugh, we cry, and then we laugh again. Why, you ask? Well, if a grueling, rigorous, and life-changing journey were easy, everyone would be doing it. However, I am glad most do not pursue this journey because, hand on heart, it would be very confusing if we were all called Doctor or Professor, or hey you, Smarty Pants!

While this will be my last year as GSIC Chair, I am excited to continue developing our membership and creating valuable opportunities for Graduates to be supported, become acquainted with the researcher's identity, or push the envelope of academics and scholarly activities. But, as I read my words, I hear a voice in my head say, "Dr. Speno, you sound like you're selling me something." Well, I am, and here is the ask:

I wish to expand the GSIC membership and develop innovative and authentic opportunities for NERA Graduate members to feel supported, navigate the job market, or navigate the minefield of academia that, in my opinion, is a bit more complicated than politics in Washington but less obtuse than the inner workings of the United Nations.

I NEED YOUR HELP!

If you are a graduate, please consider GSIC. If you are a professor and know individuals who would benefit from GSIC, introduce me to them. If you are an all-around awesome academic with a most epic network, introduce me to someone who may be able to assist in my quest! By all means, I am not begging; I tell it like it is—WE WANT MORE GSIC MEMBERS.

I will leave you with this, and as playground etiquette goes, I am breaking all the rules:

Go on! I Triple-Dog Dare you to join GSIC and introduce colleagues who would thrive in the GSIC.

All the best to you and yours,

Matthew Speno, Ed.D.



2023 Call for Nominations:
NERA Educator-as-Researcher (EaR) Award
Salika Lawrence, The College of New Jersey, Chair

The Educator-as-Researcher Award is presented annually to an educator who has conducted a self-initiated classroom research project or applied research findings to inform their own practice. Candidates may nominate themselves or be nominated by a NERA member or other professional who knows about their research. The award recipient will be invited to attend the NERA conference to present the research to a NERA audience and receive the award.

The nominee must be a PK-12 educator who conducted a school-related research project with their students, faculty, local community partners, or constituents to improve educational practices. The project must be conceptualized, developed, and implemented as part of the nominee's context and practices and have had at least one cycle of trial and evaluation. The project should also be related to a clearly defined theoretical focus and represent an innovation that has led to concrete change in educational practice. The research, conducted during the past two years, could be part of a thesis or dissertation if the educator is primarily responsible for the development and implementation of the project. Research topics may vary but should have some importance in the nominee's branch of education. The theory underlying the research, as well as methods of instruction or implementation, data collection, and analysis, should be well articulated and documented by the nominee.

Send the application cover sheet on the next page, and narrative as a Word document to Dr. Salika Lawrence, co-chair, Educator-as-Researcher Award Committee (lawrencs@tcnj.edu) no later than June 1, 2023.

Call for Nominations:
2022 GSIC Best Paper by a Graduate Student Award
Matthew Speno, Salem State University, GSIC Chair

We encourage all graduate students who were the first authors of papers presented at the 2022 NERA Conference to submit their papers for the 2022 Best Paper by a Graduate Student Award competition. Please e-mail two copies by Friday, March. 31, 2023, to the committee Chair, Matthew Speno (mspeno@gmail.com). One must be a Blind copy without any author identifying information, and the other copy must include a title page with each author's name, affiliation, and e-mail address.

We look forward very much to receiving your paper by March 31, 2023. The recipient will be recognized at the 2023 NERA conference. For more information, please contact GSIC Chair Matthew (mspeno@gmail.com).

I hear the conference was a blast! I was there, stuck in my hotel room with COVID. Talk about a complete drag. However, I heard GSIC was well represented and held a great social. The 2023 conference is just around the corner, and I so look forward to welcoming GSIC members in Trumbull! Thank you to everyone who stepped up to lead and support GSIC in my absence.

I look forward to the Best Paper Process. We have many talented Graduate students in our Corps.

Matthew Speno, Ed.D.
mspeno@gmail.com

EDUCATOR-AS-RESEARCHER AWARD APPLICATION
54th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, October 2023, Trumbull, CT

Name of Applicant: _____

Affiliation of Applicant: _____

Position of Applicant: _____

Mailing Address of Applicant: _____

(after June 1, 2023) Phone _____ E-mail: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Attach information regarding your submission using the following four guidelines provided:

Descriptive title of the research

Abstract (Please summarize the research project in no more than 250 words, including its purpose, procedure, and outcomes)

Description of the research (maximum of 1000 words) a) the rationale for conducting the study, b) description of project methods including participants, site, and procedures, c) report and analysis of research findings, d) discussion of the impact of the research on the educator's practices that occurred or will occur as a result of the project, e) bibliography of relevant references related to the research, and f) any other information seen as relevant by the nominee

Significance of the study to educators (describe how the results contribute to improved educational practice or professional knowledge of educators in your field; maximum 100 words)

Name of Nominating Person (if other than the applicant): _____

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

Affiliation and Position of Nominating Person: (Please Print): _____

Signature of Nominating Person: _____ Date: _____

October and January Board Meeting Updates

Katrina Roohr, Educational Testing Service, Secretary

Hi NERA Members!

The NERA Executive Committee and Board of Directors met in person at the NERA conference on October 19, 2022. It was the first time since 2019 that the Board was able to meet in person, and it was great to be back! We met again at the beginning of January, this time virtually, to discuss the upcoming year and preparations for the 2023 conference.

During the October Board meeting, we discussed all the efforts leading up to the 2022 conference. Board liaisons represented the various NERA committees, discussing plans for the 2022 conference as well as ongoing initiatives. Additionally, the 2022 conference team talked about the conference budget and final conference plans. Finally, Nina Deng, now the past president, talked through the communications survey sent out to find ways to continue improving NERA communications moving forward.

The January Board meeting was forward-thinking, discussing plans for 2023. Bo Bashkov led the meeting as the new NERA president and discussed plans for the 2023 conference with the conference team. In addition, board liaisons summarized what went well for the various committees during the 2022 conference and areas to focus on for this upcoming year.

Here are a few highlights from the two meetings:

- 2022 marked the first in-person conference since 2019, and conference registration was comparable to 2019, with 221 registrations!
- Nina Deng, NERA's past president, brought fantastic sponsorship numbers for the conference.
- The infrastructure committee has diligently investigated some of the challenges with e-mail bounce-backs. The live test yielded a 90% success rate during the conference for both platforms. The team continuously seeks to ensure that all members and prospective members receive NERA communications.
- The infrastructure committee is also working to clean up our NERA database of members' and prospective members' dated affiliations and e-mails as we start the 2023 year. NERA leadership encourages members to log in and review their profiles to ensure that all information is up-to-date.
- The communications committee continuously strives to ensure that all NERA members receive up-to-date communications. Recently the communications committee launched a [new LinkedIn page](#). We ask everyone to start following up for up-to-date information.
- The mentoring committee had a successful mentoring session at the conference. A total of 55 people signed up—14 mentors and 26 mentees. The mentoring committee is continuously striving to find ways to create great mentoring opportunities for all NERA members.
- The membership committee has been working continuously to expand our prospective membership list.

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- The newly formed membership advocacy committee is up to 10 members and has worked closely with the membership committee and conference ambassador team.
- Conference ambassadors had some great engagement at the conference. Human bingo was a hit, and there were a lot of positive interactions with members at the conference.
- The GSIC continues to look for new graduate students to join this committee. The GSIC is a great way for graduate students to get involved in NERA, giving graduate students a voice within the organization.
- This year, we had the 2022 Doherty and Donlon award recipients, and 2021 Woollatt winner. Submissions have been received and reviewed for the 2023 Woollatt award. There was no Educator-as-Researcher award.
- The nominations committee reported a fairly low turnout for voters (around 16%). Please be sure to keep an eye out for e-mail communications regarding voting for future board members and the president.
- The site selection committee has been very busy evaluating various hotels within the Northeast for future NERA conferences—starting in 2024. They are also re-evaluating Trumbull as an option. More to come soon!
- The 2023 conference team is already hard at work planning for next year's conference. The team has already identified some amazing keynote speakers and has started to look closely at our conference budget along with our hotel contract. In addition, as communicated via e-mail, the team is exploring some options for a potential increase in conference registration fees.

The executive committee and Board of Directors will meet again briefly in late February and again in May to continue discussing plans for the 2023 conference and other NERA business. Continue to



check *The NERA Researcher* and the website for the conference and individual committees' updates. We look forward to this upcoming year! See the executive team pictured in the photos shared in the

Membership Committee Update

Rory Lazowski, The College Board, Chair

We hope that 2023 has treated you well so far! The Membership Committee has several returning members this year, including this talented group of individuals:

Briana Chang, The College Board
Marcy Delcourt, Western Connecticut State University
Rebecca Natow, Hofstra University
Charles Ogundimu, Pace University
Rory Lazowski, The College Board

Our committee met earlier in the year to begin scoping out our work. Some of the work will revolve around more efficient and timely communication, including mitigating the number of e-mails that automatically go into spam and working with the infrastructure committee to clean up the rolling list of members since quite a few e-mail addresses may be wrong and/or outdated. We also discussed the possibility of instead of e-mailing current and potential members more than once or twice a year, having more frequent communication throughout the year on various topics such as:

NERA-sponsored webinars and professional development events
Benefits of joining NERA beyond just the conference (more on this below)
How to join or renew your membership

We'd also like to work with other committees (communications, infrastructure, membership advocacy) and collaborate on topics for webinars/professional development; reaching out to current, prospective, and previous members; and how best to combine efforts to create surveys that both capture our shared interests but are also mindful of length to reduce survey fatigue.

For all NERA members: I would LOVE to hear from you about the benefits of joining NERA beyond just the conference. In recent years, our focus has been primarily on recruiting new members; however, we would also like to encourage current members to renew this year. Toward that end, one goal is to send prospective and current members a bulleted list of the benefits of joining NERA. It would be awesome to hear your ideas about what those benefits are! Please e-mail those to: rlazowski@collegeboard.org

Thank you!
The Membership Committee

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RESEARCH ASSOCIATION



Communications Committee Update

Jerusha Henderek, NBME, Chair

I hope everyone's 2023 is off to a great start!

Committee Member Transitions

The Communications Committee would like to thank Mina Lee for her many years of service to our committee—both as a general member and as chair. Her role has transitioned to serving NERA as conference co-chair; please direct any chair-related inquiries to me.

Current Committee Contacts

Last year, Yu Bao transitioned to Webmaster. Dukjae Lee and Shelby Perry have stayed as our points of contact for e-mail and social media communication, respectively. I am grateful to our committee members who volunteer their time to ensure NERA communications are shared accurately and timely with our NERA colleagues.

Social Media

Please follow NERA's official pages on our various social media sites if you aren't already. We're working to make these even more informative and interactive this year.



Communication Request Procedures

With our committee member role transitions, we have a new [Communication Request Form](#). You can always find the latest form on NERA's [Downloadables page](#). Please submit your forms at least two business days prior to the target date for dissemination. That will allow the committee sufficient time to review and approve prior to sharing your communication.

As a reminder, forms should be submitted to me (Jerusha) at JHenderek@nbme.org with a copy to any coordinator whose communication mode you want to be leveraged for your request:

E-mail: Dukjae Lee (dlee@umass.edu)

Social Media: Shelby Perry (slperry@email.neit.edu)

Website: Yu Bao (bao2yx@jmu.edu)

Membership Advocacy Committee Update

Pamela Kaliski, American Board of Internal Medicine, Chair

Hello NERA Members!

I hope your 2023 is off to a wonderful start. As Chair of the Membership Advocacy Committee, I am happy to share that the committee is officially assembled and comprised of 11 volunteers:

Pamela Kaliski, ABIM
Tajma Cameron, Drexel University
Kevin Coopersmith, Stockton University
Richie Diaz, Cathedral Prep
Maria Hamdani, Center for Measurement Justice
Sarah Hammami, University of Nebraska
Samantha Harmon, James Madison University
Thai Ong, NBME
Niralee Patel-Lye, University of Connecticut
Kristin Weyrick, Stockton University
April Zenisky, UMass Amherst

As a reminder, the charge of this committee is to advocate for all of the types of diversity that NERA members represent, focusing on making NERA members feel included in every aspect of the association. NERA is for everyone, and this committee will help to create a safe space that reflects our many layers of diversity. Our primary focus this spring will be identifying our initiatives for 2023. We will use the results of the NERA post-conference survey to inform and shape these initiatives. If you have any particular areas of interest or concern that this committee should consider, please feel free to reach out to us.

We are looking forward to listening and learning from you all.
Pamela Kaliski, Chair

NERA Mentoring Program Update

Bethany Fishbein, Boston College and Kerry Vieth, American Institutes of Research, Co-Chairs

The NERA Mentoring Program strives to facilitate meaningful connections for NERA participants, primarily through a mentor-mentee match program at the annual NERA conference.

The 2022 mentoring event was a success—nearly 30 mentees and 16 mentors in hand-picked pairs and groups met at an organized happy hour and discussed a wide variety of topics, including research interests, graduate school advice, and career advice. We were very pleased to receive positive feedback from the participants (100% had an “excellent” or “good” experience!) and hope that you are keeping in touch beyond the conference. Thank you to all who joined this year!

Looking forward to 2023, we hope to recruit additional mentors to equal the recent rise in interest among mentees. So, if you have experience conducting education research and are interested in advising a graduate student or early career professional, please look out for our invitation to sign up this fall!

Feel free to reach out to the co-chairs, Bethany Fishbein and Kerry Vieth, at mentoring@nera-education.org should you have any questions or suggestions for improving the program. We look forward to working with the NERA membership over the coming year!

About the NERA Mentoring Program

The conference-based Mentoring Program has existed since 2012 and serves as a focused, hand-selected match-making process. Each year, the Mentoring Program co-chairs collect information from members who volunteer to be a mentor or want to be mentored. Mentor-Mentee pairs or groups are matched based on research interests, career goals, or areas of desired growth. Pairs are encouraged to communicate before and meet during the annual NERA conference. Participants in this process benefit from receiving a structured and informed match, having dedicated time during the conference to meet, and being able to make new connections outside of their existing social networks.

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