

The NERA Researcher

The President’s Message



My dear NERA community,
Things are really heating up for the NERA 2025 conference! There is so much buzz and excitement as we plan the final details we have been imagining over the past year. As the President it has felt overwhelming at times, but mostly I feel gratitude for the community of NERA to help get us to the finish line. My co-chairs have been my lifeline, the Board and Jonathan, as past president, has been a rock in these times.

I have been so grateful for those around me that I can call on for support when I need it, encouragement, and guidance. It is what NERA has always meant to me: community.

I love to run. I especially love to run in the woods. It is what fills my cup, as they say. I especially have loved running up mountains. Running a conference is a lot like running up a mountain. It is just before you can see the summit in sight that you wonder if you can make it. It feels impossible, and you can’t go on. Then you glimpse the summit, and you think, “It is so close”...even if it isn’t! But that glimpse gives you a new strength, a second (or third, or fourth) wind to keep moving forward despite the rocks, and the roots that are determined to trip you up. That is how this season is feeling. I can glimpse the top and am excited to see the view from the summit. With my community around me.

Amidst the wonder and excitement of putting this plan together, of being part of this community, I cannot ignore the challenges we have faced in this current era in our country. The ever-present weight of the world makes doing even the smallest things feel Herculean at times. I don’t know if I am alone in this, but I suspect I am not, that the baseline level of anxiety has been raised with the uncertainty of the world in which we are living. In reality, we have never known what is to come; however, it feels even more true now. While it would be understandable to collapse into despair, or want to give up, wondering what is the point, we cannot yield to these feelings. At times it feels pointless to continue to do the good work of our research and science in a culture that tries

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to cancel science. However, we are being called to do exactly that right now. Our greatest act of resistance is to not collapse. It is to keep going, to do what feeds our souls, and to be happy and joyful. This can feel like a tall order at times. It is not about ignoring the world around us; it is about digging deep to find the beauty that is still there, that needs our attention. Where we place our attention, and intention, will grow. So, we will put our attention on the positive. We will stay informed, but we will cultivate love and acceptance of others and the importance of coming together as a community.

NERA was my first professional community. It is, in fact, my favorite professional community. I look forward to gathering together in Trumbull to celebrate our community, and to recognize and nurture the important contributions we all make, both to research, and to the lives of those we touch. The co-chairs have done an exceptional job putting together a wonderful program, and I am excited for them to share the preview of what we have put together. Our theme, “Illuminating the Margins: Education for Every Mind” seeks to create a feeling of belonging for all of us. We all belong, we are all important, and I deeply care about our community. Looking forward to seeing you all very soon.

Lisa Keller,
NERA President



**The Center for Assessment
and Research Studies**



The NERA Researcher

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

Message from the Editors

Dear NERA colleagues,

The 2025 conference is just around the corner, and the planning team has put together a program that is sure to be engaging. This issue has the information you'll need in order to plan your time at the event. We thank the committees for their updates on the work that they have done and for including opportunities for members to get involved.

An important way to get involved is through voting for the Officers of the organization. We have included the candidate statements for the 2025 election ([page 13](#)), and we hope to do so going forward. In future issues, we plan to publish articles about the various roles in NERA and the work that they entail. Attending the Business Meeting on Friday morning of the conference also provides a great way to learn more about NERA and to have your voice heard. Additionally, the Member Advocacy Committee is asking for your feedback about options that are being considered for the 2026 conference ([page 16](#)).

Finally, just as we are experiencing the changing of the seasons, we are undergoing changes to our editorial team. Maura Maxfield and Kat Tremblay will rotate off the team but will stay involved with NERA as they devote their time to family, work, and school. We have enjoyed working with them and appreciate their contributions, and we wish Maura and Kat all the best! Felice Billups has joined the team and is happy to continue to serve NERA in this new capacity. Welcome, Felice!

- 2025 Editorial Board
- Elizabeth Stone
 - Felice Billups
 - Kat Tremblay
 - Maura Maxfield
 - Barbara J. Helms

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Appointed Positions

- 2025 Conference Co-Chairs:**
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- Eduardo Crespo-Cruz**
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- Hongyu Diao**
American Board of Internal Medicine
- Nate Smith**
American Board of Internal Medicine
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IXL Learning

2025 NERA Annual Conference

Illuminating the Margins: Education for Every Mind

Wednesday, October 22 - Friday, October 24, 2025
Trumbull Marriott Shelton, Trumbull, CT

Dear NERA Members,

We are thrilled to share our latest updates for the 2025 conference! In the midst of an era marked by uncertainty and rapid change, we come together to learn, connect, and grow with resilience. This conference offers a space for thoughtful exchange, fresh perspectives, and meaningful collaboration with professionals who inspire and challenge us. Mark your calendar for Wednesday, October 22 to Friday, October 24, 2025, and stay tuned for more exciting details—this is an event you won't want to miss! This year's theme is:

Our theme for 2025 is **“Illuminating the Margins: Education for Every Mind.”**

This year's conference embraces a compelling theme: honoring the strengths of all learners, especially those whose voices and perspectives have historically been underrepresented in traditional educational settings. Grounded in the belief that every individual deserves recognition and opportunity, the event will illuminate the rich contributions and untapped potential across diverse communities. Through keynote addresses, interactive workshops, and dynamic panel discussions, participants will engage in meaningful dialogue that uplifts the talents and experiences of every learner. Together, we will reimagine educational systems that celebrate diversity, empower individuals, and cultivate innovation and growth for all.

Our keynote speakers and thought leaders will offer fresh perspectives on the meaning of education for all, especially for historically marginalized learners, and reflect on their experiences at the NERA conference, sharing what the event has meant to them personally.

Member News

Maura Maxfield and **Jenn Lewis**, current NERA members, were recently promoted to Assistant Research Professors in the Center for Educational Assessment at UMass Amherst.

As a post doctoral fellow at the Center for Childhood and Youth studies out of Salem State University, **Matthew Speno** publishes research on the human rights issues related to special education, vocational education, and youth development issues related to social justice. He is also back in school at the University of Kansas working towards a Master's in special education and youth post-secondary transition to adulthood.

Mengkai (梦凯) Zhang (张), current NERA member, earned his Master's degree in Art Education from the University of British Columbia in May 2025. His article, *Flying with the Bird: A Posthuman-a/r/tographic Rethinking of Decolonisation* (in press), will be published in the *International Journal of Education Through Art* in October 2025. Beginning in September 2025, he will pursue a PhD in Art Education at the University of Victoria, where he will also serve as a Teaching Assistant. He is currently a peer reviewer for a Canadian academic journal and has served as a reviewer for several academic conferences.

UMass Amherst is hosting the Conference on Test Security November 3-5, 2025 on campus in Amherst, MA! Join experts from all types of organizations as they discuss the test security capabilities and enhancements that protect the validity of test results and brand integrity. Find more information about the conference and register at <https://conferenceontestsecurity.org>.

Join us for two inspiring sessions:



Rachel Adams (Wednesday, October 22nd, at 7 PM), Associate Director of Education & Training at Disability Services at UMass Amherst. Rachel trains and supervises a wonderful team of graduate employees who work as academic coaches and disability mentors. She also instructs undergraduate courses, and her research interests center on student learning and development, addressing student barriers, disability identity and inclusion, and universal design and instruction.

Dr. Barbara Helms (Thursday, October 23th, at 12 PM), has been a member of NERA since 1978, when she was a doctoral student in education measurement and evaluation at the University of Connecticut. After completing her PhD in 1985, she has served as the senior researcher on a variety of research and evaluation programs across the US, including the seminal Pay for Performance project in Denver Public Schools in 2001, which later became the Teacher Incentive Fund (TIF) program and principal investigator on an Early Reading First project in Lowell, MA, in 2008–11. Currently, Dr. Helms is a freelance editor, primarily working on doctoral dissertations for doctoral students in the US, the UK, Belgium, and China. These cover a range of fields, including education leadership, criminal justice, international humanitarian law, and theology. She was a Mary E. Switzer Distinguished Research Fellow.



As a long-time NERA member, she has served in various capacities, including program co-chair, treasurer, and president in 1998. She was honored with the Leo D. Doherty Award for Outstanding Leadership and Service in 2002 and an Award of Special Recognition for Outstanding Dedication and Commitment to Education in 2010. She received the Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper award in 1984. She is currently a member of the NERA Researcher editorial team.

We are delighted to announce the release of the *Handbook for Assessment in the Service of Learning*, a three-volume series from the University of Massachusetts Amherst! Series Editors Edmund W. Gordon, **Stephen G. Sireci**, Eleanor Armour-Thomas, Eva L. Baker, Howard T. Everson, and Eric M. Tucker will release three volumes, each focusing on a critical dimension of assessment in the service of learning.

What are these volumes about and why are they so significant? In 2013 The Gordon Commission on the Future of Educational Assessment called for a repurposing of assessment from measuring status to helping students learn. This Handbook series presents a blueprint for accomplishing that goal. The three volumes in this series offer a contemporary view of a range of theoretical perspectives, scholarship, and research and development on innovations with the potential to enable assessment to enhance learning.

Please mark your calendars for the official publication dates:

September 17: Volume I:
Foundations for Assessment in the Service of Learning
September 24: Volume II:
Reconceptualizing Assessment to Improve Learning
October 15: Volume III: Examples of Assessment in the Service of Learning

These three volumes will be open source, meaning completely free to all who want to do more to develop and use assessments that serve learners.

For more information, contact NERA member Stephen Sireci at sireci@umass.edu

Please consider submitting your professional accomplishments to *The NERA Researcher* for recognition! News can be submitted year-round to theneraresearcher@nera-education.org and will be published in the next issue.

Lastly, we're thrilled to announce a fun new addition to this year's conference: the official NERA T-shirt, featuring the winning design from our T-shirt contest! Attendees will have the opportunity to purchase and pick up their shirts onsite. If you'd like to snag one, be sure to look out for the order link included in your registration materials.

Your 2025 NERA Conference Co-Chairs,

Eduardo Crespo-Cruz, Hongyu Diao, Nate Smith, and Dongwei Wang



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2025 Conference Schedule Overview: Wednesday

9:00–12:00	Workshops: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Be Curious, Not Judgmental: Exploring Co-designed Educational Research · An Introduction to Longitudinal Diagnostic Classification Models · How to Design Presentations that Engage, Inspire, and Disrupt · Introduction to Python
1:30–3:00	Paper Sessions/Symposia
3:15–4:45	Paper Sessions/Symposia
5:00–5:45	Graduate Student Issues Committee Social
6:00–8:00	Dinner & Keynote: Rachel Adams
8:00–11:00	NERA Welcome Reception

Thursday

7:00–8:30	Breakfast & NERA New Member Breakfast
8:30–10:00	Paper Sessions/Symposia
10:15–11:45	Paper Sessions/Symposia
11:45–1:00	Lunch & Keynote: Barbara Helms
1:15–2:45	Paper Sessions/Symposia
3:00–4:15	Paper Sessions/Symposia
4:30–5:45	Poster Session
5:45–6:30	NERA Mentoring Program
6:30–8:30	Dinner and Presidential Address
8:30–11:00	NERA Presidential Reception

Friday

7:00–8:30	Breakfast & NERA Business Meeting
8:30–10:00	Roundtables
10:15–11:45	Paper Sessions/Symposia
11:45–12:00	Farewell & To-Go Bags

2025 Workshop Descriptions

Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.: Be Curious, Not Judgmental: Exploring Co-designed Educational Research

Facilitator: Amanda Mayes, Ph.D., Delaware Department of Education

Abstract: Co-designed educational research invites teachers, students, families, and/or other stakeholders to the “research table”. Co-design honors each person’s expertise and informs the entire process- from generation of research questions, to how data will be collected, to analyzing results and determining next steps. Co-designed research is highly collaborative and blends rigor and relevance into real-world education settings. In this session, we will learn to be more like Ted Lasso, focusing on curiosity rather than assumptions. Attendees will have the opportunity to share experiences, strengths, and challenges in the co-design process as well as outline plans for potential co-designed research projects.

Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025 | 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.: An Introduction to Longitudinal Diagnostic Classification Models Part I; 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.: Part II

Facilitator: Alfonso J. Martinez, Fordham University

Abstract: Diagnostic classification models (DCMs) are widely employed in educational measurement due to their capacity to generate fine-grained, actionable feedback from responses on educational assessments/tests. Recent developments highlight the importance of measuring student performance across multiple occasions to gain deeper insights into learning trajectories. This workshop introduces longitudinal DCMs for modeling changes in mastery and non-mastery over time (multiple measurement occasions). Participants will learn the basics of longitudinal DCMs, how to specify them in Mplus/R, and gain hands-on experience in model definition, estimation, and interpretation. No prior experience with DCMs is required, making the workshop accessible to all educational researchers.

Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025 | 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.: How to Design Presentations that Engage, Inspire, and Disrupt

Facilitators: Kate Hudson and Fred Zinn, UMass Amherst College of Education

Abstract: Do you want your presentation to stand out from the typical parade of bullet lists and pie charts? Learn how you can get your audience to sit up and take notice. This workshop covers the important, but often overlooked, steps you should take before you even open PowerPoint such as: organizing key points, choosing a compelling narrative structure, and selecting visual elements that convey essential messages better than any bullet list. No experience with presenting or presentation software is required. Having a presentation in mind to use in the exercises is recommended.

Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025 | 10:30 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.: Introduction to Python

Facilitator: Peter Tran, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Abstract: This is an introductory workshop in Python programming language requiring no previous experience. Participants will learn the basic python syntax, core data structures, and an overview of machine learning models. Participants will leave with a strong foundation to continue learning on their own after the workshop concludes.

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2025 Conference Ambassadors Update

Anika Thrower, *BMCC CUNY*, Chair

Greetings NERA members!

On behalf of the Conference Ambassadors Committee, I hope everyone is having a healthy year so far and is eager to attend the upcoming NERA conference in October. This Committee welcomes new and returning members to the annual conference. We accomplish this by encouraging interaction among attendees, sharing our own NERA experiences, and facilitating new connections. In other words, we are charged with making all feel warm and fuzzy while learning. This year, we have a few different plans for the conference. The Committee will be hosting the annual new member breakfast on Wednesday morning. In that vein, we cordially invite you to join us for breakfast, coffee, conversation, and a few prizes. Additionally, we are planning a networking game to help you get to know your fellow conference attendees (with of course more opportunities to win a prize). We will share additional details about these events and introduce ourselves to you so you know who we are as we get closer. Please feel free to contact us if you have any questions, suggestions and feedback. We look forward to seeing you in October!

Anika Thrower

Chair, NERA Conference Ambassadors Committee

athrower@bmcc.cuny.edu



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Call for Volunteers and 3MT Participants

Dear NERA Members and Colleagues,

As we prepare for the 2025 NERA Conference, we are reaching out to invite your participation in two exciting opportunities:

- **Volunteers for the Registration Table** – Help us welcome attendees and keep things running smoothly. Selection will be on a first-come, first-served basis depending on the availability you indicate in the form.
 - Hours: 8am–5pm Wednesday/Thursday and 8–11am Friday
 - Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/gAFTxxudHVgUvare7>
- **Three-Minute Thesis (3MT) Competition** – Showcase your research in a concise and engaging presentation during the Wednesday evening reception (8pm).
 - Sign up here: <https://forms.gle/nUrc7u3mpjByqkeBA>

We encourage you to take advantage of these opportunities to contribute to the conference, connect with colleagues, and share your work.

Thank you in advance for your support in making the 2025 NERA Conference a success. We look forward to seeing you in October!

Warm regards,

Your 2025 NERA President & Conference Co-Chairs

Lisa Keller, Eduardo Crespo Cruz, Hongyu Diao, Nate Smith, and Dongwei Wang

Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper Award

2025 Call for Submissions

Presenters from the 2025 NERA conference are strongly encouraged to submit an original research paper (no more than 20 pages) in competition for the Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper Award. It should meet the criteria of being an empirical/inferential or theoretically based study with supporting data, and may include case studies. This award is named in honor of Lorne H. Woollatt, a distinguished New York State educator and an active member of NERA. The winner of the award receives a \$500 stipend to present their research paper at an invited session of the Consortium of State and Regional Educational Research Associations (SRERA) at the 2025 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting (to be held in Los Angeles, CA).

This year's award will be given to the best paper presented by one or more authors at the 2025 NERA conference. Each paper goes through a blind review by the award committee. Each submitted paper is scored on the importance of the topic and need for the study, the quality of the research design, data analysis, results reported, and conclusions, and the contribution the research findings make to the knowledge base of the field.

The Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper Award committee invites participants of the 2025 NERA conference to enter presented papers meeting the research study requirements described above. Please email two copies by Friday, November 7th to the committee Chair, Rochelle Michel (nera.woollatt.award.submission@gmail.com). One copy should be a copy without any author identifying information on the title page and one copy that includes a title page with the names, affiliations, and email addresses of each author. We very much look forward to receiving your paper by Friday, November 7th.

Nominations Committee Update

Jonathan Steinberg, *EurekaFacts*
Past President; Chair, Nominations Committee

Dear Colleagues,

I am happy to report that our candidate slate is complete for the upcoming NERA elections. The process was once again very challenging, so I very much appreciate those who have made the commitment to try and help shape the future of our organization over the next few years. The candidates are:

- **President:** Hank Johnson, New England Institute of Technology (NEIT)
- **Board of Directors:**
 - Jerusha Henderek, National Board of Medical Examiners (NBME)
 - Huyuni Suratt, City University of New York (CUNY) Graduate Center

As chair of the Nominations Committee, I am coordinating with Infrastructure Committee Chair Kate Schaefer to run the election. As we have successfully done now for the last several years, we will once again be using OpaVote. I am also coordinating with our Communications Committee to make sure members receive appropriate messaging prior to and during the election cycle and that formal [candidate bios](#) are made available for review. I strongly encourage you to exercise your right to vote, so please watch your email for more information. The results will be announced during the upcoming October 22-24 NERA conference in Trumbull, CT.

As this is my last official act as a member of NERA's Executive Committee, I appreciate all the support I have received over these last three years. To repeat something from my Presidential Address, the NERA family needs you now, so again I strongly encourage more people to consider running for leadership positions in the future. Please feel free to speak to me at the conference if you have questions or are interested in learning more about these opportunities.

Jonathan Steinberg
Past President; Chair, Nominations Committee



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Membership Committee Update

Shelby Perry, *NEIT*, Chair

The Membership Committee is excited to share that our team has been working on outreach to colleges within the New England area. We have also formed a partnership with the Society for Advancement of Management (SAM). They have an annual conference held in March, with this year being held at the New England Institute of Technology. Within this partnership, they have added a new track, "Educational Research & Measurement." We are looking forward to this partnership!

Membership Committee

Shelby Perry, Matthew Lepore, Ariel Cerruto, Anna Sullivan, & Kayla Wolf



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[REASSESTHEFUTURE.ORG](https://ReassessTheFuture.org)

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Member Advocacy Committee Update

Sarah Hammami, *Buros Center for Testing*, Chair

Hello NERA Members,

We'd like to share some updates on what the Member Advocacy Committee (MAC) has been working on:

- On September 9th, we hosted our second webinar:
"Building Better Conversations: How to Elevate Research as a Conference Discussant."

Looking ahead to **NERA 2026**, we're exploring a couple of new ideas to support our community:

- **A Mixer for Marginalized Students, Professionals, and Allies**
A welcoming space for anyone who wants to show up with care and respect.
- **A Mindfulness Room**
A quiet space where members can unwind, do light work, or have low-key conversations.

To gauge interest in these initiatives and gather any other suggestions, we've created a short survey. This feedback will help guide our planning for **NERA 2026** (please note, this is not for the 2025 conference).

👉 [Survey Link](#)

Join Us!

We're also looking for new members to join the Member Advocacy Committee. If you're passionate about advocacy and building a more inclusive NERA community, we'd love to have you on board!

✉ Contact Sarah Hammami at shammami2@huskers.unl.edu if you're interested.

We want to hear from you! If you have ideas on how to make NERA a safer and more inclusive space, please don't hesitate to reach out.

Cheers,
Sarah

Members of the MAC:

Pamela Kaliski, April Zenisky, Archangel Gundula, Marjorie Blicharz

New Member Spotlight



Archangel Metadio Gundula

(he/him/his)

Doctoral Student

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

NERA Member since 2023

[Email](#)

[LinkedIn](#)

Where do you call home?

Malawi, Southeastern Africa

Tell us about your family and pets!

We are two in my family - My little sister (Rachel) and I. She just completed her undergraduate degree in Special Needs Education and Sign Language. I love cats, and we have one. While my mom loves farming and she has all kinds of livestock and poultry, her specialty is growing flesh oyster mushrooms (Good and nutritious).

Are there any books or podcasts you'd recommend?

Book: Hidden Potential - The Science of Achieving Greater Things by Adam Grant

Do you have a favorite quote?

"Success is not final; failure is not fatal: It is the courage to continue that counts."
- Winston S. Churchill

Are there any goals you're working toward?

To improve the education system in my country and/or Africa in general, mainly in terms of accessibility, testing, grading, and evaluation.

Interested in being considered for our next Member Spotlight? Learn more [here!](#)

Seasoned Member Spotlight



Jonathan Steinberg

Director of Research and Analytics
EurekaFacts

NERA Member since 2007

[Email](#)

[LinkedIn](#)



Where do you call home?

Robbinsville, New Jersey

Tell us about your family and/or pets!

My wife and I have a son who is a sophomore at American University in Washington, DC and a daughter who is a sophomore at our local high school.

What's something you enjoy that you think more people should consider doing/learning?

Going to see educational research clients where they do their work to better understand their environment and perspectives to help shape your work.

Tell us about an interesting place you've traveled to!

I went with my wife and daughter to Pittsburgh in July 2024 where we visited the Andy Warhol Museum, rode the trolleys up and down the inclines, and took part in their annual pickle festival.

Do you have any words of wisdom you live by/would like to share?

When times are uncertain, patience, perseverance, and faith go a long way.

Are there any goals you're working toward?

I have considered writing a book about my 25+ years as an analytical professional in the working world, but also would love to be on Jeopardy.

Interested in being considered for our next Member Spotlight? Learn more [here!](#)

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Graduate Student Issues Committee (GSIC) Update

Tricia C. Clarke, *Fordham University*, Chair

The Graduate Student Issues Committee (GSIC) is dedicated to creating meaningful opportunities for graduate students within the NERA community. We're here to support your academic journey and help you connect with peers in graduate school.

During the NERA Conference, the GSIC welcomes graduate students attending the conference with an invitation to our **GSIC Social**. This gathering serves as a dedicated space where graduate students can share experiences, exchange insights, and discover practical strategies for supporting one another throughout the challenging yet rewarding graduate school experience. While the conference offers numerous networking opportunities, the GSIC Social provides an intimate setting specifically designed for graduate student connection and mutual support. *Additional details will follow.*

One of the GSIC's core initiatives is the **Best Paper by a Graduate Student Award competition**. This recognition celebrates research contributions from graduate students. If you are the first author on a paper to be presented at the NERA 2025 Conference, we encourage you to submit your work for consideration. To apply, following the conference, submit your papers presented at the conference to Tricia Clarke at tclarke11@fordham.edu:

- **Two copies** of your presented paper
- **Blind copy:** Remove all author identifying information from the title page
- **Complete copy:** Include a title page with names, affiliations, and email addresses of all authors

The winner of the 2025 Best Paper Award will be honored at the NERA 2026 Conference, providing valuable recognition for your scholarly contributions. *Additional submission details, including page count requirements and submission deadlines, will be announced in the coming weeks.*

We always welcome graduate students to join the GSIC and help shape its future direction. If you are interested in contributing fresh ideas and supporting current and future graduate students, we would be happy to hear from you. To learn more, contact GSIC Chair, Tricia Clarke, at tclarke11@fordham.edu.

Join us in building a stronger, more supportive community for graduate students in educational research.

We look forward to seeing you soon!

Your Graduate Student Issues Committee,

Tricia C. Clarke (Fordham University), GSIC Chair - tclarke11@fordham.edu

Matthew Speno, Ed.D. (Salem State University), GSIC Past Chair and Committee Member - mspeno@gmail.com

David “Dave” Earls, Ph.D. (Emmanuel College), GSIC Committee Member - earlsd@emmanuel.edu



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Call for NERA 2025 Mentoring Program: Match with a Mentor or Mentee!

Dear NERA Community,

We are excited to invite all NERA 2025 Conference attendees to participate in the NERA 2025 Mentoring Program during the upcoming conference at the Trumbull Marriott Shelton in Trumbull, CT, from October 22-24, 2025.

Since 2012, the Mentoring Committee has been facilitating successful mentor-mentee matches, connecting seasoned professionals in NERA-related fields with graduate students and early career professionals through a carefully curated process. This program has offered participants the opportunity to form meaningful connections beyond their existing networks, share research interests, discuss career goals, and explore areas for growth.

The 2024 Mentoring Program was a resounding success, with 17 mentors and 31 mentees participating. Nearly 15 mentors and over 25 mentees engaged in enriching discussions on topics such as graduate school advice, dissertation guidance, manuscript writing for publication/conference proposals, professional development, leadership, and career/industry insights. Many of these connections have continued beyond the event. Our post-event survey received 23 responses, all reflecting a 100% positive feedback rate, with every respondent expressing eagerness to recommend the program to colleagues and friends, a true testament to its impact.

During this year's conference, matched pairs will have the opportunity to meet at a dedicated **happy hour on Thursday, October 23, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.** We encourage mentors and mentees to continue their relationship beyond the conference, fostering lasting connections.

We invite all in-person conference attendees to join the program.

Sign up to become a mentor if you meet the following criteria:

- Have at least four years of career experience in education or educational measurement
- Are interested in advising a graduate student or early-career professional

Sign up to become a mentee if you:

- Are currently enrolled in an undergraduate/graduate program OR are an early career professional (less than five years of post-graduate experience) in a NERA-related field
- Are interested in advice on your educational path, dissertation, or career

Please use the link below to register and provide information about your research interests, career goals, or areas for growth:

Registration link: <https://bit.ly/NERA2025>

The registration deadline is **Tuesday, September 30, 2025**. Based on your responses, the Mentoring Committee will match you with a mentor/mentee who shares your interests. Please note that by signing up, you are committing to participate in the program and will be matched accordingly. If your plans change, kindly inform the Mentoring Committee so we can ensure all interested participants have a suitable match.

We look forward to seeing you this October and to fostering meaningful connections in our vibrant community!

All the best,

Your Mentoring Co-Chairs

Tabitha Bellamy, Duy Pham, Krishna Chaitanya Rao Kathala, Maria Hamdani,

Email: mentoring@nera-education.org



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