

# The NERA Researcher

## The President's Message: We Need You!



Darlene Perner

Dear NERA Friends,

It has been a long cold winter and today was the first sunny day in weeks! A sunny day in Pennsylvania brings hopes of spring, positive changes and good things. One of these, that is, good things for NERA and its members, I can address with full confidence. I cannot, however, predict springtime's arrival or positive changes for education. Let me first start with good things for NERA.

### GOOD THINGS FOR NERA

#### 44<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL NERA CONFERENCE

We are thrilled and honored to have an internationally recognized expert on teacher effectiveness, **CHARLOTTE DANIELSON** as our keynote speaker. We are also excited to have **Barbara Helms, Kristen Huff, Tom**

**Levine, David Moss, and Thanos Patelis** on our keynote panel. These NERA members from different disciplines will be coming together to share their expertise on FAIRNESS!

#### INVOLVEMENT IN NERA

This year, as in past years, we have wonderful participation by NERA members. We all know that NERA, like other organizations, has a Board of Directors who works hard to keep everything on track throughout the year. The Board's involvement has not only been crucial to the operation of NERA, it has also been exceptional. There are other NERA members who make significant and outstanding contributions to NERA. These are NERA's Committee Chairs and Committee Members, Editors and Webmaster. I cannot help but acknowledge these members as they volunteer their time, talents and expertise to ensure that NERA members are informed throughout the year and have a superb educational research conference in October. Through the 2012 post-conference survey, many members volunteered to serve on committees. So at this time, I want to thank you all for volunteering and/or for serving on one of these Committees. A list of Committee Chairs, Editors and Webmaster is included in *The NERA Researcher* and on our Website. Also, I have included the Committee Members on our Website (and in this issue of the *NERA Researcher* too!).

Being a chair or member of a committee is only one way you can contribute to NERA. I am going to suggest a number of ways your involvement in NERA can be significant. WE NEED YOU!

#### Submit A Proposal

With the theme being FAIRNESS, we want educational researchers from different fields of education to submit a proposal. We are interested in receiving proposals from all disciplines and want to highlight various areas of research through a variety of venues including paper and poster sessions. Therefore, no matter what field of education you represent (e.g., assessment, policy, teacher education, K-12 education, educational leadership) please consider contributing by submitting the research work that you are most interested in to share at the 2013 NERA Conference.

#### Attend The NERA 2013 Conference And Bring A Colleague

As a NERA member, your attendance is critical to the organization. NERA is known for its networking and for sharing research and ideas. This is a comfortable venue where you can meet others with common educational and research interests and begin to form on-going relationships. We would love to meet new members and be reunited with former members. Please reach out and volunteer by bringing a colleague to NERA. Also pass the word that NERA membership and conference fees are the same for 2013 as they were for 2012 and the conference fee always includes free registration for pre-conference and in-conference workshops!

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

## Message from the Editors

Greetings NERA Members! We hope you find this issue informative. It includes important information about the 44th annual conference including deadlines and procedures for submitting your proposals! As our President, Darlene Perner, notes in her President's Message, there are a number of ways to get involved in NERA, and submitting a proposal and attending the annual conference is one way to make a significant contribution. In addition, it can be a wonderful professional development experience at any stage of your career.

In this newsletter, you will also read about various training opportunities and keynote speakers our Conference Program Co-Chairs, Steven Holtzman, Catherine Koehler, and Jennifer Randall, have begun planning.

Finally, please read about the nomination calls for several awards namely the Teacher-as-Researcher Award, the Donlon Award, and the Doherty award, and strongly consider nominating a worthy colleague.

Maureen & Bo,  
The Editors

## NERA 2013 Board of Directors

### President:

Darlene Perner  
*Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania*  
[dperner@bloomu.edu](mailto:dperner@bloomu.edu)

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*Westfield State University*  
[ls Shelley@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:ls Shelley@westfield.ma.edu)

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[cdepascale@ncea.org](mailto:cdepascale@ncea.org)

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*New Frontiers in Learning*  
[sfeinman@nfil.net](mailto:sfeinman@nfil.net)

Jerusha Gerstner (2012-2013)  
*James Madison University*  
[gerstnjj@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:gerstnjj@dukes.jmu.edu)

### Directors (cont.):

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*Emmanuel College*  
[laua@emmanuel.edu](mailto:laua@emmanuel.edu)

Rochelle Michel (2012-2015)  
*Educational Testing Service*  
[rmichel@ets.org](mailto:rmichel@ets.org)

Dena Pastor (2011-2014)  
*James Madison University*  
[pastorda@jmu.edu](mailto:pastorda@jmu.edu)

Javarro Russell (2012-2013)  
*National Board of Medical Examiners*  
[jruessell@nbme.org](mailto:jruessell@nbme.org)

## NERA 2013 Appointed Positions

### 2013 Conference Co-Chairs:

Steven Holtzman  
*Educational Testing Service*  
[sholtzman@ets.org](mailto:sholtzman@ets.org)

Catherine Koehler  
*Southern Connecticut State University*  
[sissianne@aol.com](mailto:sissianne@aol.com)

Jennifer Randall  
*University of Massachusetts Amherst*  
[jrandall@educ.umass.edu](mailto:jrandall@educ.umass.edu)

### NERA Researcher Co-Editors:

Maureen Ewing  
*The College Board*  
[mewing@collegeboard.org](mailto:mewing@collegeboard.org)

Bo Bashkov  
*James Madison University*  
[bo.bashkov@gmail.com](mailto:bo.bashkov@gmail.com)

### NERA Webmaster:

Tia Sukin  
*Pacific Metrics*  
[tsukin@pacificmetrics.com](mailto:tsukin@pacificmetrics.com)

### NERA Conference Proceedings Co-Editors for Digital Commons:

Xing Liu  
*Eastern Connecticut State University*  
[liux@easternct.edu](mailto:liux@easternct.edu)

Jim McDougal  
*University of Massachusetts*  
[jemcdougal@aol.com](mailto:jemcdougal@aol.com)

### Mentoring Program Co-Chairs:

Pamela Kaliski  
*The College Board*  
[pkaliski@collegeboard.org](mailto:pkaliski@collegeboard.org)

Ross Markle  
*Educational Testing Service*  
[rmarkle@ets.org](mailto:rmarkle@ets.org)

### STANDING COMMITTEES

#### Communications Chair:

Jonathan Steinberg  
*Educational Testing Service*  
[jsteinberg@ets.org](mailto:jsteinberg@ets.org)

#### Membership Chair:

Jennifer Merriman  
*The College Board*  
[jmerriman@collegeboard.org](mailto:jmerriman@collegeboard.org)

#### Graduate Student Issues Chair:

Jerusha Gerstner  
*James Madison University*  
[gerstnjj@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:gerstnjj@dukes.jmu.edu)

#### Nominations:

Lynn Shelley  
*Westfield State University*  
[ls Shelley@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:ls Shelley@westfield.ma.edu)

### AWARDS COMMITTEES

#### Teacher-as-Researcher Award Chair:

Ellina Chernobilsky  
*Caldwell College*  
[EChernobilsky@caldwell.edu](mailto:EChernobilsky@caldwell.edu)

#### Thomas Donlon Mentoring Award Chair:

Sara J. Finney  
*James Madison University*  
[finneysj@jmu.edu](mailto:finneysj@jmu.edu)

#### Leo D. Doherty Memorial Award Chair:

David Moss  
*University of Connecticut*  
[david.moss@uconn.edu](mailto:david.moss@uconn.edu)

#### Lorne H. Woollott Distinguished Paper Chair:

Clarie Mastromonaco  
*City of Bridgeport*  
[mastrodance@aol.com](mailto:mastrodance@aol.com)

### AD HOC COMMITTEES

#### Infrastructure Chair:

Peter Swerdzewski  
*The Regents Research Fund*  
[pswerdz@me.com](mailto:pswerdz@me.com)

#### Site Selection Chair:

John Young  
*Educational Testing Service*  
[jwyoung@ets.org](mailto:jwyoung@ets.org)

#### Strategic Planning Chair:

Lynn Shelley  
*Westfield State University*  
[ls Shelley@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:ls Shelley@westfield.ma.edu)

#### Peer Review Process Chair:

Javarro Russell  
*National Board of Medical Examiners*  
[jruessell@nbme.org](mailto:jruessell@nbme.org)

#### How To Expand the Presence of K-12 Teachers Chair:

TBD

#### Connecting Research to Practice Chair:

Gilbert Andrada  
*Connecticut State Department of Education*  
[gilbert.andrada@ct.gov](mailto:gilbert.andrada@ct.gov)

#### Conference Ambassadors Chair:

Rochelle Michel  
*Educational Testing Service*  
[rmichel@ets.org](mailto:rmichel@ets.org)

(Continued from page 1)

### Conference Volunteers

The conference co-chairs will be asking for volunteers to assist with various tasks before and during the conference. Some of these wonderful opportunities include reviewing proposals and being a chair or discussant for conference sessions. Please consider responding to the conference co-chairs' requests and/or contacting them to express your interest at [NERA2013@gmail.com](mailto:NERA2013@gmail.com).

### Committee Work

At the January Board of Directors' Meeting, a number of new Ad Hoc Committees were approved. To start on committee work, the chairs of these committees have been appointed; however, members are needed. I will acknowledge these committees in this message so if you are interested, please contact me or the committee chair. We look forward to having new committee members on these new ad hoc committees!

### AD HOC COMMITTEES

At the 2012 conference, and from the post-conference survey and committee reports, NERA members brought forward a number of issues and suggestions for the Board of Directors to address. At the NERA Board of Directors' Meeting this past January, the Board discussed these issues and suggestions and took immediate action. The Board formed and approved four new Ad Hoc Committees: Peer Review Process, Connecting Research to Practice, How to Expand the Presence of K-12 Teachers at NERA, and Conference Ambassadors.

#### Peer Review Process

This ad hoc committee is chaired by Javarro Russell. The task of this committee is to inform membership about the role of peer review in the field of educational research and how it relates to the role of conference peer discussants. Some of the suggestions discussed for this committee to address included providing better detailed descriptions of the roles and responsibilities of conference presenters, chairs and discussants; different formats for eliciting constructive feedback given to presenters; and a panel session on the peer review process.

#### Connecting Research to Practice

This committee will replace the State and District Consumers of Ed Research Ad Hoc Committee. Gil Andrada chairs this committee. The task of this new committee is to revisit the charge, and revise the role and responsibility of the former committee. Some of the suggestions discussed for this committee were to take research presented at the conference and have it compiled in a format that would be accessible to practitioners, have a practitioner-focused section of The NERA Researcher, and have a list that connects researchers to needed research in the field.

#### How to Expand the Presence of K-12 Teachers at NERA

This new committee was created based on the report of the Teachers-as-Researcher (TAR) Award Committee. The chair of this committee will be determined by the TAR Award Committee. The charge of this committee is to determine means to expand the participation of K-12 teachers in NERA as an organization and at the conference. Some of the tasks for this committee include providing recommendations for specific conference sessions/symposia and presenters, and contact and written information to aid the membership and communications committee in reaching out to teachers and teacher education faculty.

#### Conference Ambassadors

This ad hoc committee is chaired by Rochelle Michel. The task of the committee is to identify and implement ways to ensure that new members feel welcome at the NERA Conference. The most immediate way discussed was to designate "ambassadors" but other ways the Board and NERA members can help will be identified by this committee.

### IN CLOSING

It snowed today...so much for thinking about spring's arrival! But, I still have hopes that spring is just around the corner. I also have hopes that the education's budget will be saved and schools will be made better and safer. And, finally I have hopes that you will all get involved in some way with NERA! WE NEED YOU!

## Call for Nominations

The NERA Executive Committee is seeking nominations for the following open elected positions:



NERA President (3-year term as President-elect, President, Past President)

NERA Board Member (3-year term)

NERA Board Member (3-year term)

Please send nominations (name of nominee, email address, and position) by June 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013 to: Lynn Shelley, NERA Past-President and chair of the nominations committee ([ls Shelley@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:ls Shelley@westfield.ma.edu)).

## Member News

**Sara J. Finney** was appointed to the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) General Test. The TAC's primary responsibilities are to shape the research agenda for the GRE program, to provide technical and psychometric support, and to ensure the technical quality of both the final GRE research reports and of new GRE research proposals before they are released.

**Kurt Geisinger** came in second in nominations for the American Psychological Association (APA) presidency and will be one of five running for APA President this fall! If you are a member of APA, don't forget to cast your vote. In addition, Kurt and the Buros Center for Testing hosted a conference in late March entitled "Big Issues in Testing" that some NERA members attended.

**Jerusha Gerstner**, a first-year doctoral student in the Assessment & Measurement program at James Madison University, was awarded a summer internship with The University of the State of New York – Regents Research Fund. She will be working with **Kristen Huff** and **Peter Swerdzewski**, who are also NERA members.

**Jason Kopp**, a doctoral student at James Madison University, will begin an internship with The College Board in August 2013.

**Donna Sundre** has been selected as a recipient of the 2013 Outstanding Achievement Alumni Award from the UNCG School of Education, which recognizes UNCG Alumni who have earned state, national, or international distinction in their career. She will be recognized during the 2013 Alumni Awards Celebration in April and invited to serve as a member of the honorary platform party at the 2013 School of Education Commencement Ceremony in May.

**Nicholas D. Hartlep published the following:**

Hartlep, N. D. (2012). A Critical Review of the Model Minority Stereotype Shibboleth. *Publicaciones de la Facultad de Educación y Humanidades del Campus de Melilla*, 42, 13-40.

Hartlep, N. D. (2013). The Model Minority? Stereotypes of Asian-American Students May Hurt More Than They Help. *Diverse: Issues in Higher Education*, 30(2), 14-15.



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## DATIC 2013

JUNE  
03-07  
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**Dyadic Data Analysis  
Using Multilevel Modeling**  
with David Kenny / Randi Garcia

JUNE  
10-14  
2013

**Structural Equation Modeling**  
with Betsy McCoach

JUNE  
17-21  
2013

**Hierarchical Linear Modeling**  
with Betsy McCoach / Ann O'Connell

To register for any of these workshops please go to  
<http://www.datic.uconn.edu>



### Dyadic Data Analysis Using Multilevel Modeling

The Workshop on dyadic data analysis will focus on data where both members of a dyad are measured on the same set of variables. Among the topics to be covered are the measurement of nonindependence, the actor-partnership interdependence model, the analysis of distinguishable and indistinguishable dyads, mediation and moderation of dyadic effects, and over-time analyses of dyadic data. The software package used in the workshop will be SPSS, but there will be discussion of other packages (e.g., HLM) and structural equation modeling. Although the workshop does not require any prior knowledge or experience with multilevel modeling, participants are expected to have a working knowledge of multiple regression or analysis of variance, as well as SPSS.



### Structural Equation Modeling

This introductory workshop on Structural Equation Modeling covers basics of path analysis, confirmatory factor analysis, and latent variable modeling. Using AMOS Graphics, participants will learn how to build, evaluate, and revise structural equation models. Although the workshop does not require any prior knowledge or experience with SEM, participants are expected to have a working knowledge of multiple regression, as well as some experience using a statistical software program such as SPSS.



### Hierarchical Linear Modeling

Each HLM workshop covers basics and applications of multilevel modeling with extensions to more complex designs. Participants will learn how to analyze both organizational and longitudinal (growth curve) data using multilevel modeling and to interpret the results from their analyses. Although the workshop does not require any prior knowledge or experience with multilevel modeling, participants are expected to have a working knowledge of multiple regression as well as SPSS (or SAS). Analyses will be demonstrated using the software HLMv6. Instruction will consist of lectures, computer workshops, and individualized consultations. The workshop emphasizes practical applications and places minimal emphasis on statistical theory.



To register for any of these workshops please go to  
<http://www.datic.uconn.edu>



## Modern Modeling Methods Conference

University of Connecticut  
NEAG School of Education

### Modern Modeling Methods Conference

(May 21–22)

#### Pre-Conference Workshop

(May 20)

Kristopher Preacher  
*Multilevel SEM with  
Complex Applications*

Keynote Speakers:

- Bengt Muthen
- Judea Pearl
- Linda Collins

#### Post-Conference Workshop

(May 23)

Bengt Muthen & Tihomir  
Asparouhov  
*Advanced Latent Variable  
Modeling using Mplus 7*

The Modern Modeling Methods (M3) conference is an interdisciplinary conference designed to showcase the latest statistical modeling methods and to present research related to these methodologies.

<http://www.modeling.uconn.edu/>

## Call for Proposals

44th Annual Conference  
October 23-25, 2013  
Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, Rocky Hill, CT

### Conference Theme: "Fairness!"

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 five session formats. For more information about the conference, including FAQs about NERA proposals, visit NERA at [www.nera-education.org](http://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 in your submission.*

- Complete author information
- 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 and references.
- Summaries of research should include: study purpose, theoretical framework, methodology, results, conclusions and educational implications. Warning: Full papers will not be accepted as conference proposals.

#### Submission Format

The proposal submission form will be online and accessible from the NERA website in the beginning of May. All required information will be entered into form fields with the exception of the description of your proposal which will be uploaded as a PDF or Word file. 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 7, 2013**.
- 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, appeal to NERA membership, and likelihood of proposed work being completed by conference date.
- 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 – 2013 NERA Conference

Please choose one of the following categories when submitting your proposal.

### ***Individual Paper Presentation:***

Proposals should describe completed or nearly completed research to be presented in 10-12 minutes. Sessions will be organized so that 3-4 other individual presentations will be grouped according to similar research areas. In each paper session, a Discussant will be assigned to read the set of papers in advance and present a 10-15 minute overview, critique, or analysis of the set of papers to spur discussion.

### ***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.

### ***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. All posters must be free standing because no bulletin boards are provided. Specific directions for the size of the poster will be posted on the NERA Conference website.

### ***Individual Paper Discussion for Early Research***

Proposals should describe a research project that is in the developmental stages (perhaps in the early stages of data collection or analysis). The research will be presented briefly (5-10 minutes) at a discussion with others who share similar research interests. A discussant will offer suggestions and facilitate feedback on each research project immediately following its presentation.

### ***Working Group Session:***

Proposals should describe a facilitated opportunity to discuss a line of research with a group of researchers who share similar interests. This working group session is designed to support and engender collaborative ongoing research in that area of research. Proposals should identify a session facilitator (chair) and set of authors who will discuss their planned research program or project ideas with session participants and potential collaborators.

Please complete the form at <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/NERA2013> if you are interested in volunteering to serve as a submission reviewer, session chair, or session discussant.

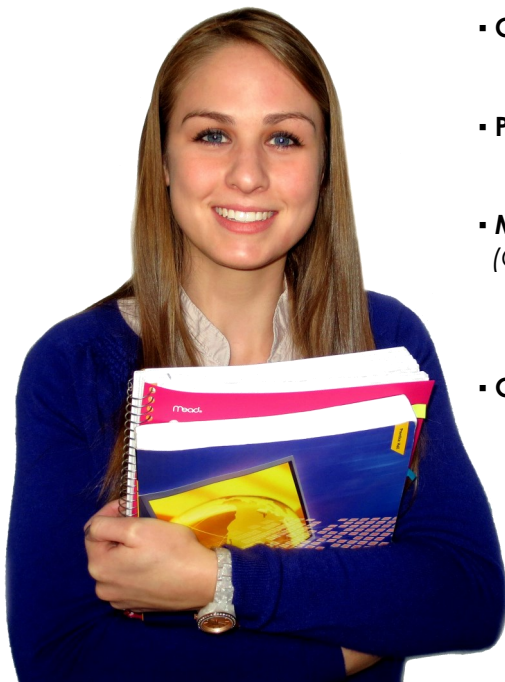
If you have any questions, please contact the conference co-chairs at [NERA2013@gmail.com](mailto:NERA2013@gmail.com).

Thank you,

Steven Holtzman, Educational Testing Service  
Catherine Koehler, Southern Connecticut State University  
Jennifer Randall, University of Massachusetts-Amherst  
NERA 2013 Conference Co-Chairs



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JWU alum **KARIN EDWARDS**

has worked at public and private two- and four-year institutions for the majority of her career in education.

Edwards has served in several leadership positions including nine years as senior student affairs administrator and nine years as a senior-level administrator outside of student affairs.

She currently serves as the dean of student development at Three Rivers Community College in Norwich, Conn.



Northeastern Educational Research Association (NERA)  
44th Annual Conference  
October 23-25, 2013  
Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, Rocky Hill, CT

**Conference Theme:** “Fairness!”

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## Conference Overview

We want to thank everyone for responding to the 2012 conference evaluation survey that has been useful in helping us plan for the 2013 conference. We would also like to thank the 2012 Conference Chairs, Tia Sukin, Craig Wells, and Gil Andrada, and Past President, Lynn Shelley for all their great work in making the 2012 conference a success.

**Conference Theme:** The conference theme for 2013 is “Fairness!” We are organizing several invited sessions, panels and professional development workshops addressing Fairness in education. This year, Fairness will take on a broad perspective and participants will be excited to see the depth and breadth this topic can follow.

**Conference Venue:** The conference will return to the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel in Rocky Hill, CT. Formally known as the Hartford Marriot Rocky Hill, the Sheraton has promised new and updated facilities to house the conference. The dates of the Conference will be October 23-25, 2013. Membership and conference registration forms will be available on the NERA website: <http://www.nera-education.org> this summer.

**Keynote Speaker:** This year, we are happy to announce *Charlotte Danielson*, internationally recognized expert in the area of teacher effectiveness, specializing in the design of teacher evaluation systems, as our keynote speaker.

**Keynote Panel:** This year, we will also host a panel of experts on Fairness from our own organization, NERA. This panel will include: Barbara Helms, Kristen Huff, Tom Levine, David Moss, and Thanos Patelis.

**Professional Development Workshops:** We are planning two pre-conference workshops and several embedded-conference workshops covering topics such as differentiated instruction in the college classroom, R software, measurement invariance, G theory, social network analysis, and qualitative data analysis.

**Invited Panels:** There will be several invited panels that will present throughout the conference on different topics such as: international education, school safety, and several aspects of fairness in education.

**Round-table Discussions:** New this year, we will be hosting a “table talk” round table discussion about educational topics outside the formalized presentation sessions. A facilitator will lead these round-table discussions.

**Mentoring:** The mentoring program, led by Ross Markle and Pamela Kaliski, will provide graduate students with the opportunity to meet with professionals in the education field. Mentors can provide individualized feedback on research projects and/or dissertations, as well as provide guidance during the conference.

**Social Events:** The annual NERA conference has been a venue for creating a collegial and festive atmosphere. This year, we will be hosting two evening events that are sure to “bring down the house.” In addition, we will be hosting a 5K walk/run on Thursday morning before conference sessions begin. This event will get your blood pumping early!

**Online Proposal Submission System:** We will continue using the online proposal submission process, making a few minor changes so that we can maximize its effectiveness. Please see the Call for Proposals and FAQs for more information. We also encourage you to distribute the Call for Proposals to other educational researchers who may not have access to this publication.

We are looking forward to another successful and exciting NERA conference! See you all in October!

Remember to like the NERA page on Facebook for up-to-date news from NERA



or email us if you have any questions: [NERA2013@gmail.com](mailto:NERA2013@gmail.com).

# Frequently Asked Questions

## 44th Annual Conference

### October 23-25, 2013

#### Sheraton Hartford South Hotel, Rocky Hill, CT

### Conference Theme: "*Fairness!*"

#### **Does my research project have to be complete to be accepted to NERA?**

Not necessarily. Nearly completed research will be considered for the conference, but the research should show potential of being ready for presentation by the date of the conference. If the proposer feels it might not be ready, it should be submitted as an Individual Paper Discussion for Early Research.

#### **How are the proposal descriptive keywords used?**

These terms are used in several ways. First, they will be used to match the proposal to appropriate reviewers, then to match the proposal to an appropriate session and session discussant in the program. Please select the descriptor that is the best match to your proposal as your first-choice and two additional descriptors as next-best options.

#### **What is the review process like?**

Reviewers are NERA members who have self-identified as being willing to review proposals in the same topic area as the proposal keyword. The program committee, according to the reviews and availability in the conference program, makes final decisions.

#### **When will my research paper need to be ready?**

Discussants must be able to review research papers prior to the session in order to properly prepare for discussion. You will be asked to email your research paper to the discussant by October 1.

#### **Will a projector and laptop be available in my session?**

Institutional sponsors will be supplying LCD projectors for each session. Arrangements only need to be made to have a laptop present at the session. The chair of the session will arrange the laptop and file transfers to the laptop by email before the session. Presenters are expected to cooperate with chair requests.

#### **How do I prepare a free-standing poster?**

Posters will need to be able to stand up on a table since no boards or easels are available at the hotel. Tri-fold foam or corrugated display boards are portable and inexpensive. They can be purchased at most office supply stores. Directions as to the size of the poster will be posted on the NERA website.

#### **What if I am accepted to NERA but I am unable to attend NERA when the time comes?**

Submitting to NERA is a sign that you intend to attend the conference if accepted. If something prevents you from being able to attend, and co-authors or colleagues cannot present in your place, you must withdraw your presentation *before* the session by emailing [NERA2013@gmail.com](mailto:NERA2013@gmail.com).

#### **What are the conference registration fees?**

The conference registration fees will be Professionals \$85; Retirees: \$20; Students: \$30. Late fees will be instituted after October 1. All registrants must also be NERA members. Information about membership and dues can be found on the NERA website ([www.nera-education.org](http://www.nera-education.org)).

#### **What is included in the Conference Hotel?**

The Conference will be held in the Sheraton Hartford South Hotel in Rocky Hill, CT. For the Conference, the hotel offers several different accommodation rates: single, double, triple and quad rooms. The rate for Conference rooms includes all meals during the conference. Rates for the hotel will be posted on the website in the summer.

#### **How will I submit my NERA proposal?**

An online submission system to submit proposals will open in early May.

If you have any further questions, please contact the conference co-chairs at [NERA2013@gmail.com](mailto:NERA2013@gmail.com).

Thank you,

Steven Holtzman, Educational Testing Service  
Catherine Koehler, Southern Connecticut State University  
Jennifer Randall, University of Massachusetts-Amherst  
NERA 2013 Conference Co-Chairs  
[NERA2013@gmail.com](mailto:NERA2013@gmail.com)

# NERA 2013 Committees and Members

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper Award (2012 Conference)

**Chair:**

Claire Mastromonaco, *University of Bridgeport*  
[mastrodance@aol.com](mailto:mastrodance@aol.com)

**Members:**

David Alba, *Johnson & Wales University*  
Gilbert Andrada, *Connecticut State Department of Education*  
Elizabeth Gittman, *Nassau Community College/Consultant*  
Abby Lau, *Emmanuel College*  
Rochelle Michel, *Educational Testing Services*  
Johan van der Jagt, *Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania*  
Barbara Wert, *Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania*

### Leo D. Doherty Memorial Award

**Chair:**

David Moss, *University of Connecticut*  
[david.moss@uconn.edu](mailto:david.moss@uconn.edu)

**Members:**

Sharon Cramer, *Buffalo State*  
Barbara J. Helms, *Educational Evaluation Consultant*

### Thomas F. Donlon Memorial Award

**Chair:**

Sara Finney, *James Madison University*  
[finneysj@jmu.edu](mailto:finneysj@jmu.edu)

**Members:**

Felice D. Billups, *Johnson & Wales University*  
Ann Hassenpflug, *University of Akron*  
Steven Melnick, *Alvernia University*

### Teacher-as-Researcher Award

**Chair:**

Ellina Chernobilsky, *Caldwell University*  
[ECernobilsky@caldwell.edu](mailto:ECernobilsky@caldwell.edu)

**Members:**

Francine Falk-Ross, *Pace University*  
Philip Harak, *University of Massachusetts Amherst*  
Rochelle Kaplan, *William Paterson University*  
Cara McDermott-Fasy, *Rhode Island College*

### Communications

**Chair:**

Jonathan Steinberg, *Educational Testing Service*  
[jsteinberg@ets.org](mailto:jsteinberg@ets.org)

**Members:**

Joanna Badara, *University of Bridgeport*  
Louise Bahry, *University of Massachusetts Amherst*  
S. Jeanne Horst, *James Madison University*

**Contributing Members:**

Xing Liu, *Eastern Connecticut State University*  
Tia Sukin, *Pacific Metrics*

### Graduate Student Issue Committee

**Chair:**

Jerusha Gerstner, *James Madison University*  
[gerstnjj@dukes.jmu.edu](mailto:gerstnjj@dukes.jmu.edu)

**Members:**

Rochelle Fisher, *James Madison University*  
Oksana Naumenko, *James Madison University*  
Sarah Newton, *University of Connecticut*  
Kristen Smith, *James Madison University*  
Xi Wang, *University of Massachusetts Amherst*  
Whitney Zimmerman, *The Pennsylvania State University*

### Membership

**Chair:**

Jennifer Merriman, *The College Board*  
[jbausmith@collegeboard.org](mailto:jbausmith@collegeboard.org)

**Members:**

Nina Deng, *University of Massachusetts Medical*  
Jason Kopp, *James Madison University*  
Sheetal Sood, *University of Hartford*  
Whitney Zimmerman, *The Pennsylvania State University*

### Nominations

**Chair:**

Lynn Shelley, *Westfield State University*  
[lshelley@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:lshelley@westfield.ma.edu)

**Members:**

Kristen Huff, *The Regents Research Fund*  
Thanos Patelis, *The College Board*  
Janet Stivers, *Marist College*

## AD HOC COMMITTEES

### Infrastructure

**Chair:**

Peter Swerdzewski, *The Regents Research Fund*  
[pswerdz@me.com](mailto:pswerdz@me.com)

**Members:**

Steven Holtzman, *Educational Testing Service*  
Helen Marx, *Southern Connecticut State University*  
Elizabeth Stone, *Educational Testing Service*  
Tia Sukin, *Pacific Metrics*

(Continued on page 12)

(Continued from page 11)

#### **Site Selection**

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**Chair:**

John Young, *Educational Testing Service*  
[jwyong@ets.org](mailto:jwyong@ets.org)

**Members:**

Thanos Patelis, *The College Board*  
Lynn Shelley, *Westfield State University*

#### **Strategic Planning**

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**Chair:**

Lynn Shelley, *Westfield State University*  
[lshelley@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:lshelley@westfield.ma.edu)

**Members:**

Barbara J. Helms, *Educational Evaluation Consultant*  
Kristen Huff, *The Regents Research Fund*  
David Moss, *University of Connecticut*  
Thanos Patelis, *The College Board*

#### **Peer Review Process**

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**Chair:**

Javarro Russell, *National Board of Medical Examiners*  
[jrussell@nbme.org](mailto:jrussell@nbme.org)

**Members:**

Lynn Shelley, *Westfield State University*  
Elizabeth Stone, *Educational Testing Service*  
John Young, *Educational Testing Service*

#### **How to Expand the Presence of K-12 Teachers**

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**Chair:**

Rochelle Kaplan, *William Patterson University*  
[Kaplan@wpunj.edu](mailto:Kaplan@wpunj.edu)

**Members:** TBD

#### **Connecting Research to Practice**

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**Chair:**

Gilbert Andrada, *Connecticut State Department of Education*  
[Gilbert.Andrada@ct.gov](mailto:Gilbert.Andrada@ct.gov)

**Members:**

Abby Lau, *Emmanuel College*  
Rochelle Michel, *Educational Testing Service*  
Javarro Russell, *National Board of Medical Examiners*  
Peter Swerdzewski, *The Regents Research Fund*

#### **Conference Ambassadors**

---

**Chair:**

Rochelle Michel  
*Educational Testing Service*  
[RMichel@ets.org](mailto:RMichel@ets.org)

**Members:** TBD

#### **Graduate Student Issue Committee Best Paper by a Graduate Student Award Reviewers**

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**Members:**

Joanna Badara, *University of Bridgeport*  
Louise Bahry, *University of Massachusetts Amherst*  
Bo Bashkov, *James Madison University*  
Felice D. Billups, *Johnson & Wales University*  
Ellina Chernobilsky, *Caldwell College*  
Jennifer Merriman, *The College Board*  
Ann Hassenpflug, *University of Akron*  
Steven Holtzman, *Educational Testing Service*  
S. Jeanne Horst, *James Madison University*  
Catherine M. Koehler, *Southern Connecticut State University*  
Richard P Lipka, *Saint Bonaventure University*  
Thomas Richardson, *Johnson & Wales University*  
Sheetal Sood, *University of Hartford*  
Jonathon Steinberg, *Educational Testing Service*  
Tia Sukin, *Pacific Metrics*  
April L Zenisky, *University of Massachusetts Amherst*  
Whitney Zimmerman, *The Pennsylvania State University*

## Call for Nominations for the Leo D. Doherty Memorial Award

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 over his career. The award, instituted by the NERA Board of Directors in 1981, honors the memory of Leo Doherty. He was instrumental in the development and growth of NERA as a professional association for educational research. His leadership qualities, which were both ethical and humane, encouraged others to pursue and achieve their goals. Thus, this award is presented to NERA members who have exhibited outstanding leadership and service to our organization.

Drs. David M. Moss, Barbara J. Helms and Sharon Cramer (previous award recipients and past-Presidents) are serving on the Leo D. Doherty Award Committee for 2013 and strongly encourage nominations for this award. Nomination letters should be sent as an email attachment to **David Moss** at [david.moss@uconn.edu](mailto:david.moss@uconn.edu) no later than **June 30, 2013**. Nomination letters should explicitly name the nominee and offer a concise and compelling case for the candidate in terms of their leadership and service to NERA. Inquiries regarding this award may also be sent to David Moss at the previous email address. Also please check the NERA website ([www.nera-education.org](http://www.nera-education.org)) for information on NERA Awards.



## Call for Nominations for the Thomas F. Donlon Memorial Award for Distinguished Mentoring

The Thomas F. Donlon Award for Distinguished Mentoring was established in 2000 in recognition of Tom's long and valued contributions to NERA, particularly as a mentor to so many colleagues. Since then the award has been presented annually to other 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.

The practice of mentoring in education has been going on for centuries and most of us can name a person who helped us move our careers along 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.

At this time nominations are again being sought for this annual award. Nominees must be NERA members and may be nominated by any member(s) 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 his/her contributions to your success, send your nomination to **Sara J. Finney via email** at [finneysj@jmu.edu](mailto:finneysj@jmu.edu) by **July 1, 2013**. In addition to the nomination letter, all nominations must be accompanied by at least three letters of support indicating the ways in which the nominee distinguished him/herself as a mentor. Up to five separate letters of support can be sent for each nominee. The award will be presented at the 2013 NERA conference. Please contact Sara if you have any questions about the Donlon Award or the nomination process.

## THE LAW SCHOOL ADMISSION COUNCIL



The Law School Admission Council (LSAC) is a nonprofit corporation that provides unique, state-of-the-art products and services to ease the admission process for law schools and their applicants worldwide. More than 200 law schools in the United States, Canada, and Australia are members of the Council and benefit from LSAC's services. All law schools approved by the American Bar Association are LSAC members, as are Canadian law schools recognized by a provincial or territorial law society or government agency. Many nonmember law schools also take advantage of LSAC's services. For all users, LSAC strives to provide the highest quality of products, services, and customer service.

Founded in 1947, the Council is best known for administering the Law School Admission Test (LSAT®), with over 150,000 tests administered annually at testing centers worldwide. LSAC also processes academic credentials for an average of 85,000 law school applicants annually, provides essential software and information for admission offices and applicants, conducts educational conferences for law school professionals and prelaw advisors, sponsors and publishes research, funds diversity and other outreach grant programs, and publishes LSAT preparation books and law school guides, among many other services.

Go to [www.lsac.org](http://www.lsac.org)

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## Announcement

### Teacher-as-Researcher Award

The Teacher-as-Researcher Award is presented annually by the Northeastern Educational Research Association (NERA) to a preschool-grade12 teacher who has conducted a self-initiated classroom research project or applied research findings to inform his or her own teaching. The project must be conceptualized, developed, and implemented as part of the nominee's own teaching practices and have had at least one cycle of tryout and evaluation. The project should also be related to a clearly defined theoretical focus and represent an innovation that has led to some real change in practice.

Classroom teachers are invited to apply directly for this award or be nominated by NERA members, school administrators, faculty mentors, or others familiar with the teacher's research. All applications should be submitted no later than June 30, 2013.

The 2013 award recipient will be invited to speak about the research project at a session at the annual October NERA meeting in Rocky Hill, CT and be presented with the award at that time. The award includes a plaque, NERA membership, and \$150 toward travel, meals, or lodging at NERA's conference site.

For an application form or other inquiries about the award, contact:

Dr. Ellina Chernobilsky, TAR Award Committee Chair  
Department of Education  
Caldwell College  
120 Bloomfield Avenue  
Caldwell, NJ 07006  
e-mail: [echernobilsky@caldwell.edu](mailto:echernobilsky@caldwell.edu)



**NORTHEASTERN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION (NERA)  
TEACHER-AS-RESEARCHER AWARD APPLICATION  
44<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL CONFERENCE, October 2013  
Rocky Hill Marriott, Rocky Hill, Connecticut**

Name of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Position of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_  
(after June 1, 2013)

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Applicant: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Attach the following information using the guidelines provided:

1. DESCRIPTIVE TITLE OF THE RESEARCH:
2. ABSTRACT: (Please summarize the research project in **no more than 250 words** including its purpose, procedure, and outcomes:
3. DESCRIPTION OF RESEARCH: (**maximum of 1000 words**)
  - a. 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 teacher's practices that occurred or will occur as a result of the project
  - e. Bibliography of relevant references related to the research
  - f. Any other information seen as relevant by the nominee.
4. SIGNIFICANCE OF 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 applicant) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Affiliation and Position of Nominating Person: (Please Print)

Signature of Nominating Person: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Send the application coversheet and narrative as a Word document to:  
Dr. Ellina Chernobilsky, [echernobilsky@caldwell.edu](mailto:echernobilsky@caldwell.edu) no later than June 30, 2013.

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## NERA Communications Committee Report

Jonathan Steinberg  
*Educational Testing Service*

I am pleased to be following in the footsteps of my ETS colleague and 2013 NERA Conference Co-Chair Steven Holtzman as the new chair of the NERA Communications Committee. We currently have three other members: Jeanne Horst of James Madison University, Louise Bahry of University of Massachusetts-Amherst, and Joanna Badara of the University of Bridgeport. We also have contributing members: Tia Sukin (a 2012 conference Co-Chair) and Xing Liu in their roles as Webmaster and Digital Commons proceedings liaison. Jim McDougal will also be involved as the Co-Chair on Digital Commons Conference proceedings. Charles DePascale will be our NERA Board Liaison. It is great to have everyone aboard.

I want to briefly lay out some of the anticipated objectives of the committee this year. The first is to work together with some of our other committees, namely the Membership Committee led by Jennifer Merriman of The College Board and the Graduate Student Issues Committee (GSIC) led by Jerusha Gerstner of James Madison University, to facilitate more communication within our membership. The second is to increase our networking potential particularly for graduate students, but also to attract new members by letting them know about the high quality research we produce and ways to expand that dissemination effort beyond the annual NERA conference.

To that end, efforts have started to develop a tri-fold brochure showcasing our mission, our substantial graduate student body within our membership, some of our areas of research, and headliners from previous annual conferences. Additionally, our committee is in the process of developing a list of potential organizations and contacts to help extend our reach into the greater research community in the states NERA serves.

If you have any suggestions about how the Communications Committee can better serve you as NERA members, please feel free to contact me at [jsteinberg@ets.org](mailto:jsteinberg@ets.org). Also, please make sure to check out the NERA Facebook and LinkedIn pages. Please let these web pages be opportunities to let your fellow NERA members and followers know about your contributions to this year's AERA/NCME conferences.

## Special P-12 Teacher Focus at NERA 2013

Rochelle Kaplan  
*William Patterson University*

We are pleased to announce that this year P-12 teachers will have their own forum for sharing and disseminating their classroom research work. The focus of the research presented will be on ways to address student success in meeting Common Core State Standards as well as on what teachers can do to empower themselves as leaders in education and teacher assessment.

In addition, NERA will be providing documentation for professional development hours for teachers who attend the special P-12 session or any of the other excellent NERA sessions. For more information about how to participate and to involve more teachers in this exciting new focus, please contact Rochelle Kaplan at [kaplanr@wpunj.edu](mailto:kaplanr@wpunj.edu).



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# The Graduate Lounge

Jerusha Gerstner  
*James Madison University*

## Our Mission

The mission of the Graduate Student Issues Committee (GSIC) is to support the involvement and professional development of NERA graduate student members and to reach out to new graduate students in an effort to increase the diversity of institutions and programs represented at NERA. The Committee can be contacted at [neragraduatestudents@gmail.com](mailto:neragraduatestudents@gmail.com)

## Distinguished Mentoring Award Submissions

At this time nominations are being sought for the Thomas F. Donlon Award for Distinguished Mentoring. Nominees must be NERA members and may be nominated by any member(s) of NERA to whom they served as mentors. If you would like to see your mentor recognized for his/her contributions to your success, send your nomination to Sara J. Finney via email at [finneysj@jmu.edu](mailto:finneysj@jmu.edu) by July 1, 2013.

## NEW MEMBERS

The Graduate Students Issues Committee (GSIC) has elected four new members: Rochelle Fisher, Sarah Newton, Kristen Smith, and Xi Wang!



**Rochelle Fisher** ([fishe2rc@jmu.edu](mailto:fishe2rc@jmu.edu)) is a first-year student in the Psychological Sciences program at James Madison University with a concentration in Quantitative Psychology. Her interests include psychological testing and assessment, scale development and quantitative analyses. Rochelle is serving her first year on the GSIC.



**Sarah D. Newton** ([sarah.newton@uconn.edu](mailto:sarah.newton@uconn.edu)) is a second-year doctoral student in the Measurement, Evaluation, and Assessment program at the University of Connecticut. She also holds a Master of Science degree in Criminal Justice. Her research interests include instrument construction/analysis/validation, structural equation modeling, and educational assessment. Sarah is serving her first year on the GSIC.



**Kristen Smith** ([smith4kl@jmu.edu](mailto:smith4kl@jmu.edu)) is a first-year Masters student in the Psychological Sciences Program at James Madison University with a concentration in Quantitative Psychology. Her current research interests include assessing ethical reasoning as part of JMU's Quality Enhancement Plan, assessing student learning outcomes, instrument development, and examining factors that contribute to student success. Kristen is the current GSIC Chair-Elect; she will take over as the Chair after the 2013 NERA Conference.



**Xi Wang** ([xiw@educ.umass.edu](mailto:xiw@educ.umass.edu)) is in her second year in the Psychometric Methods, Educational Statistics and Research Methods Program at the University of Massachusetts –Amherst. Her current research interests include response time analysis, detecting consequential item parameter drift, as well as applications of item response theory in educational and psychological testing. She is serving her first year on the GSIC.

## SUMMARY OF RESULTS FROM THE 2012 GRADUATE STUDENT ONLINE SURVEY

We had a total of 16 students respond from at least 6 different institutions. The feedback we have received will help us plan the GSIC sponsored sessions for the 2013 conference. Here are some brief highlights from the survey:

- Both of the 2012 GSIC in-conference sessions were well received. The sessions focused on obtaining and maintaining a career in educational research and using simulation in everyday research.
- Several respondents suggested that the GSIC sponsor a session at the 2013 conference related to internship and job-seeking advice.

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**A qoon la'aan waa iftiin la'aan**

Being without education is being without light.

*Somali proverb*

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## Department of Psychology

### Master of Arts in Psychology

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#### **School Guidance Counseling Concentration**

Completion of the course of study for school guidance counselors offers students the opportunity to apply for Massachusetts certification as guidance counselors.

### Master of Arts in Applied Behavior Analysis

The core courses in Applied Behavior Analysis have been approved by the Behavior Analysis Certification Board (BACB) as meeting the coursework requirements for eligibility to take the Behavior Analysis certification exam. In addition students are required to complete a practicum each semester while enrolled in the program.

The department of psychology at Westfield State University also offers a certificate program in Applied Behavior Analysis.

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Email [PHeick@westfield.ma.edu](mailto:PHeick@westfield.ma.edu)  
Tel (413) 572-5376



## *The NERA Researcher*

Elizabeth Stone, Treasurer  
Rosedale Rd. MS-09-R  
Princeton, NJ 08541

