

The NERA Researcher

The President's Message



Javarro Russell

"Making your way in the world today, Takes everything you got, Taking a break from all your worries, It sure would help a lot, Wouldn't you like to get away?" – Gary Portnoy and Judy Hart-Angelo

With a smile, I await one of my favorite times of the year. The 49th Northeastern Educational Research Association conference is almost here. I await the research, the camaraderie, the new faces, the old faces, and everything in between that makes this organization and this conference so special.

Our theme for this year's conference is *Honoring the Past in Educational Research, While Looking Ahead: What Does the Future Hold?* With this theme I hope to address the need for educational researchers to be thoughtful about the research and the practice that predates the work they will present at the conference. Not only doing so for the sake of creating a thorough reference list, but also for the sake of clarifying the background or context that brings you to your research question. Noting the rationale, reasons or motivations for past researchers to engage in the work continued by you is important. It is also critical for helping your audience understand the significance of the work. It helps them put into context the conclusions you draw and your recommendations for future research.

"Honor" may seem a bit strong of a word for our appreciation of the researchers in our reference list. And I admit that my co-chairs and I did take the same liberties with our theme that copy editors do for newspaper headlines. However, I don't think we're that far off from what it should feel like to be an inspirational part of the research that succeeds your work. It is from this position in the reference list that you, the honoree, can continue to inspire what the future holds.

In the immediate future, we have an upcoming conference that is full of engaging workshops and presentations. I won't spoil the announcements from our co-chairs Jade Caines and Tabitha McKinley or our GSIC committee; however, I would like to take a moment to thank the sponsors. As the conference nears, we continue to gain sponsorships from

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The NERA Researcher

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

Message from the Editors

Hello NERA Members,

Fall is upon us and we hope everyone is enjoying the cooler weather! Read on to learn about the exciting things happening for NERA this season.

This issue of *The NERA Researcher* contains important information about the 2018 conference, including an overview of events scheduled for each day and registration information.

This issue also contains information regarding the upcoming NERA elections, a call for manuscripts for the journal JELPS, and updates from several NERA committees.

A special thank you to Barbara Helms for her continued assistance in editing *The NERA Researcher*.

We look forward to seeing everyone in Trumbull!

Katherine Reynolds and Katrina Roohr
The Editors

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organizations that find value in the work that NERA does. To date, we have approximately \$20,000 in commitments. Pearson, ETS, edCount, The National Center for Improvement of Educational Assessment, and James Madison University have all contributed to our new Diamond level sponsorship packages. Thank you! And, thank you to everyone else that has contributed thus far. These sponsorships, and other in-kind gifts, help NERA put on the kind of conference that you've become accustomed to.

In the last newsletter, I took up significant space in my column to note and thank a few of the NERA members who were instrumental in my growth within the organization. In closing, I would like to send a shout out to all of the newer members of NERA for their continued interests, participation, engagement, and hard work within the NERA community.

Sing it with me now...

"You want to be where you can see, The troubles are all the same, You want to be where everybody knows your name"

Member News

Dr. Mary E. Yakimowski (PhD -University of Connecticut) is a full professor, director of the doctoral program, and chair of the Department of Educational Leadership Department at Samford University in Alabama.

Please consider submitting your professional accomplishments to *The NERA Researcher* for recognition!

Submissions may be sent to theneraresearcher@nera-education.org.

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Let's Get Ready to TRUMBUUUUUULL!

49TH Annual Conference

October 17-19, 2018

Trumbull Marriott Merritt Parkway, Trumbull, Connecticut

To you, our members, it may feel like just yesterday that President Javarro Russell was announcing conference co-chairs Jade Caines Lee and Tabitha McKinley as the planners for the 2018 annual gathering, but the day is upon us!

Since last October, we have been planning diligently to ensure that we incorporated the feedback from the 2017 conference evaluations, individual emails or suggestions from members, President Russell's vision and our own ingenuity to make the 2018 one to remember.

We are excited to announce the new membership-driven conference workshops. Those sessions that will be presented during the NERA conference were selected due to you, our NERA members. Many thanks to those who chose to participate in that process. We are grateful to you for your partnership with us in this new format for engaging in our conference.

As you make plans to attend the NERA 2018 conference to attend the paper and poster sessions featuring the incredible work of our members, we would like to provide you with some exciting highlights:

Wednesday, October 17, 2018

Pre-Conference Workshops:

- "I Presented at NERA. Now What Do I Do With This Paper?" (Presenters: Drs. Sarah Ferguson and Brent Elder of Rowan University)
- "A SASsy Approach to Best Practices in Data Visualization" (Presenters: Nikole Gregg and Dr. Brian Leventhal of James Madison University)
- "Mini Hackathon: Assessing Outside the Box" (Presenters: Drs. Ellen Forte, Elizabeth Summers, and Lauren Deters of edCount)
- "SHOW ME THE MONEY!: Take Your Educational Research to the Corporate World for Funding Opportunities" (Presenter: Rod Lasster of APEX 4.0 Solutions, Inc.)
- "Automated Test Assembly and More Fun with Optimization Algorithms in R" (Presenter: Dr. Jason Kopp of American Board of Surgery)

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New NERA Member Meet and Greet sponsored by the *American Board of Surgery*

GSIC Reception sponsored by *Curriculum Associates*

Opening Dinner sponsored by *Pearson*: Keynote Speaker, Dr. Terry Mazany, National Assessment Governing Board

Opening Reception sponsored by *Praxis*: Game Night, Karaoke, and Snacks

Thursday, October 18, 2018

Opening Luncheon (sponsor TBA): Keynote Speaker, Dr. Peggy Carr, Acting Commissioner National Center of Education Statistics

Mentorship Reception sponsored by the *National Center for the Improvement of Educational Assessment*

NERA Authors' Book Fair: Come and meet NERA members who are published authors. Support them by purchasing signed copies of their books.

President's Reception sponsored by *James Madison University*: Bring your pearls, suspenders, and great memory for the password to this 20's style "Speakeasy" complete with a live jazz entertainer.

Friday, October 19, 2018

Mentoring Memories Luncheon sponsored by *edCount*: Hear from successful mentors and mentees paired through NERA throughout the years and how their relationships have grown and evolved over the years.

We look forward to seeing you in October as we celebrate this year's theme:
Honoring the Past in Educational Research, While Looking Ahead: What Does the Future Hold?

If you would like to participate in the NERA book fair, please contact Tabitha McKinley at tabitha.mckinley@doe.nj.gov for information.

There are still sponsorship opportunities available. To obtain a sponsor prospectus, please contact NERA co-chair Tabitha McKinley at tabitha.mckinley@doe.nj.gov.

Dr. Tabitha McKinley
New Jersey Department of Education

Dr. Jade Caines Lee
University of New Hampshire



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Information about the 49th Annual Conference and Hotel Registration

Becoming a Member or Renewing Your NERA Membership

All attendees of the 2018 NERA Conference must be current NERA Members. **If you have not already done so, you must either join NERA or renew your membership before you can register for the conference.** To become a member or renew your membership, please go to the NERA website <http://www.nera-education.org/>. If you need to renew your membership, you may also use the link provided in the renewal invoice distributed several months ago.

Registering for the 2018 Conference

Once you have become a new member or renewed your membership, you can register for the event. Click to **register for the 49th Annual NERA Conference**. You can also use the link: https://www.viethconsulting.com/members/evr/reg_event.php?orgcode=NERA&evid=19730091.

FYI, **conference registration covers your meals**. Because all meals are included in registration fees, we need accurate estimates of how many people will attend each meal at the hotel. So, during the registration process, you will be asked which meals you plan to attend at this time.

Similarly, we need estimates of how many people will attend the pre-conference workshops. During registration, you will be asked which workshops you plan to attend.

All online conference registration fees are processed through PayPal; however, you do not have to have a PayPal account to make a payment. You may pay by credit card on the secure PayPal site.

Please note that to receive the regular registration rate, **you must register for the conference by October 1st!** After this date, a late fee will be added to the regular rates. The following are the registration fees for this year:

2018 Conference Registration Fees – On or Before October 1st (after October 1st):

- Professional member - \$185 (\$225)
- Full-time Student - \$60 (\$100)
- Retired member - \$120 (\$120)

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Registering for the Trumbull Marriott

Finally, don't forget to register for the hotel by **September 25th** to ensure you get the discounted rate of \$145 per night.

Click to [book your group rate for the 49th Annual NERA Conference](https://www.marriott.com/meeting-event-hotels/group-corporate-travel/groupCorp.mi?resLinkData=NERA%2049th%20Annual%20Conference%5Ebdrc%60necnecb%7Cnecneca%60145.00%60USD%60false%604%6010/16/18%6010/19/18%609/25/18&app=resvlink&stop_mobi=yes). Or use the link:
https://www.marriott.com/meeting-event-hotels/group-corporate-travel/groupCorp.mi?resLinkData=NERA%2049th%20Annual%20Conference%5Ebdrc%60necnecb%7Cnecneca%60145.00%60USD%60false%604%6010/16/18%6010/19/18%609/25/18&app=resvlink&stop_mobi=yes

It is a NERA-specific link that will ensure you get the discounted rate. You may also call the hotel at 1.800.682.4095 and tell them you are attending the NERA conference.

Dr. Tabitha McKinley
New Jersey Department of Education

Dr. Jade Caines Lee
University of New Hampshire

NERA Elections

Dear NERA Colleagues,

On behalf of the Nominations Committee, I am excited to announce that we have an exceptional slate of candidates who are running for the following elected positions:

For President:

- Salika Lawrence, *Medgar Evers College, City University of New York*
- Ross Markle, *Educational Testing Service*

For Board of Directors:

- Sarah Ferguson, *Rowan University*
- Jason Kopp, *American Board of Surgery*
- Juliette Lyons-Thomas, *New York State Education Department*
- Joshua Marland, *Education Analytics*

In early September, each member received an e-mail with voting instructions. If you have any questions about the election, please contact me at cswells@educ.umass.edu. Voting will close on October 1st.

Craig S. Wells
Chair, Nominations Committee

Call for Lorne H. Woollatt Award Submissions

Are you interested in attending AERA in 2019 with a \$500 stipend? If you are presenting a paper at the upcoming NERA conference, consider submitting the paper from one of your presentations to be considered for NERA's "Best Paper" award – the Lorne H. Woollatt Award.

This award is named in honor of Lorne H. Woollatt, a distinguished New York state educator who published *The Evolution of State-local Governmental Relationships* in New York State in 1948 and was an active member of NERA. Each year, the award is given to one of the papers presented at the NERA conference. The authors of the award-winning paper receive a \$500 stipend to present their work at the next American Educational Research Association conference during one of the Distinguished Paper sessions of the Consortium of State and Regional Educational Research Associations.

The recipient of the award is chosen by a committee of NERA members who review the papers that were entered into the competition. Each submitted paper is scored by award committee members on the importance of the topic and need for the study; the quality of the research design, data analysis, results reporting, and conclusions; and the contribution the research findings make to the knowledge-base of the field. To be considered for the award, a paper must meet the eligibility criteria of being a 15-20 page report of educational research that was presented at the NERA conference.

The Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper Award Committee invites presenters at the 2018 NERA conference to enter their research papers into the competition by sending an email to Abby (Lau) Cahill at lau.abigail@gmail.com no later than November 15, 2018. In the email, please indicate the 2018 NERA conference session number, date, and time during which the paper was presented, and attach two copies of the paper. One copy should include the names, affiliations, and email addresses of each author on the title page, and one copy should not include any author information on the title page. Any questions about the award can be directed to Abby as the current chair of committee.

The committee looks forward to recognizing last year's winner, Maria Y. Finger-Elam, who co-authored the paper entitled, *Efficacy of Blended-Learning Model Literacy Intervention for Struggling Adolescent Readers*. More information about her 2017 NERA paper can be found on the NERA website awards page: http://www.nera-education.org/lorne_h_woollatt_distinguishe.php.



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Membership Matters

Welcome NERA members! NERA 2018 is almost here, and the membership committee has been working hard to brainstorm ideas to make sure it's delightful for new and continuing NERA members. As we prepare for the conference in beautiful Trumbull, CT, we are planning to continue the raffles and prizes that added a bit of pizzazz to the plenary and luncheon sessions. I am also happy to announce that this year for the first time, there will be a "New Members' Meet and Greet" hosted by the Membership and Ambassadors' program on Thursday night from 5:30 - 6:30 pm. Returning members are encouraged to attend to meet the new members of NERA.

Those of us with professional social media pages will continue to publicize NERA and NERA membership, and encourage all our members to do the same. The pages create a great platform for far reaching recruitment, and we are grateful to all those who continue to recruit and help us retain quality researchers and practitioners in our membership.


If you ever have questions, concerns, would like to join the Membership Committee, or have ideas about ways to enrich NERA membership, please reach out to Matthew at mjmadis@clermson.edu. Membership is the heartbeat of our great organization.

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Communications Committee Update and Call for Webmaster Nominations

Greetings, NERA members! The 2018 NERA conference is almost here! The NERA organization and the conference are possible thanks to an impressive amount of member involvement. To those of you who are involved in one or more committees already, thank you for your time and effort!

If you are not currently involved in a committee, please consider joining one. There are positions with a wide range of responsibility levels, from minimal time commitment to more regular duties. Committee involvement is a great mode of networking with individuals at other institutions. For graduate students and newer faculty members in particular, committee involvement is a great way to get your name out there!

Communications Committee Purpose and Members

The Communications Committee distributes important information to the NERA community, such as NERA award announcements, conference updates, and information from the American Educational Research Association (AERA). We also aim to facilitate communication between educational researchers. If you have information you would like to distribute to the NERA community, please fill out the communication request form on the NERA website (<http://www.nera-education.org/downloadables.php>). Communication responsibilities are divided by outlet. Current positions, their associated outlet, and current committee members are listed below.

Monica Erbacher, University of Arizona, Committee Chair
Duy Pham, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, E-mail Coordinator
Bo Bashkov, American Board of Internal Medicine, Webmaster
Frank Padellaro, Measured Progress, Social Media Coordinator
Ali Söken, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, Social Media Coordinator
Jonathan Steinberg, Educational Testing Service, Former Chair & Advisor
Jeanne Horst, James Madison University, Former Chair & Advisor

Call for Webmaster Nominations

In May of 2018, we announced that our webmaster extraordinaire, Bo Bashkov, will be completing his term this October. I am thrilled to announce that in October, Bo will be leading the Communications Committee as Chair!

This leaves us in need of a webmaster. The Communications Committee webmaster is responsible for maintaining and updating content on the NERA website, such as the call for proposals, downloadable forms and materials, committee members and contact information, announcements and news, and photos from previous NERA conferences. Prior webmaster experience is not necessary, although experience with web content maintenance will be helpful.

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NERA

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If you would like to nominate yourself or a colleague for the webmaster position, please email Monica Erbacher (MonicaKErbacher@gmail.com) and Bo Bashkov (bo.bashkov@gmail.com) with the following:

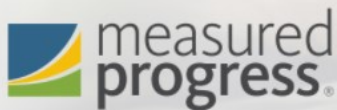
- The nominee's name and email address
- The nominee's institution and role/position
- A few sentences describing why the nominee would be a good choice for webmaster

Self-nominations are welcomed. We look forward to receiving your nominations for webmaster soon! We hope you had a wonderful Summer 2018 and look forward to seeing many of you in October!

Monica K. Erbacher
Chair, Communications Committee



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Call for Articles

The Journal of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies (JELPS)

ISSN#: 2473-2826

Fall 2018 Manuscript Deadline: October 10, 2018

Spring 2019 Manuscript Deadline: February 1, 2019

www.southernct.edu/jelps/

The Journal of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies (JELPS) ISSN#: 2473-2826, sponsored by Southern Connecticut State University is a peer-reviewed electronic journal dedicated to establishing a global network that will serve as a platform for researchers, policymakers, educators, and school leaders who are concerned with moving educational issues forward. More importantly, the journal will provide readers with an enhanced awareness of strategies and policies for improving educational outcomes and methods for improving school success for all students.

JELPS seeks manuscripts that address best practices and school policies in the four leadership domains: Instructional Leadership, Talent Management, Organizational Systems, School Culture and School Climate.

The journal welcomes articles based on practice and research with an explicit educational leadership focus, or components that examine the function of school leadership from a variety of well-balanced perspectives. All theoretical and methodological approaches are welcome (e.g., qualitative vs. quantitative; empirical vs. conceptual; discipline-based vs. interdisciplinary). Authors will receive initial review decision notifications within 3 to 4 weeks.

See the Call for Manuscripts for the *Special Issue on Educational Leadership and Social Justice* at <https://go.southernct.edu/jelps/#special-issue>. Please send submissions to Dr. Sousan Arafeh, Guest Editor, at arafehs1@southernct.edu. **The deadline for submission is October 10, 2018.**

See the General Call for Manuscripts at <https://go.southernct.edu/jelps/#call-for-articles>. General issue manuscripts should be sent to Dr. Olcay Yavuz, Editor-in Chief, Journal of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies for initial review at yavuzo1@southernct.edu.

Special Issue: Call for Articles

Educational Leadership and Social Justice

Guest Editor: Sousan Arafeh, Ph.D.

Founding Executive Editor: Olcay Yavuz, Ed.D.

Manuscript Deadline: October 10, 2018

<https://go.southernct.edu/jelps/#special-issue>


The Journal of Educational Leadership and Policy Studies (JELPS) is seeking papers for its special issue entitled "Educational Leadership and Social Justice."

In this special issue of JELPS, we ask: 1) what is the relationship between educational leadership and social justice? and 2) what should educational leadership's commitment be to social justice? Despite calls for social, cultural, and economic equity around the globe, inequity of all kinds persists. Education is seen as a primary means for combatting inequity by individuals, institutions, and governments; yet, there is no formula for how educational systems and actors are to do this.

- Are social justice and equity/inequity synonymous?
- What kinds of inequity and social justice can educational systems and educational leaders address most effectively?
- Do different types of educational leaders have different social justice imperatives?
- Who are the key collaborators to promote social justice in schools?
- What are the theoretical or empirical foundations upon which different conceptions of educational leadership and social justice are based?
- What are the examples of principals' strategies to promoting equality and social justice?

These are the kinds of questions we hope contributors will address so that, through their contributions, educational practitioners, researchers, and policy-makers will be able to consider, more deeply, who they are in relation to social justice and what actions they and their institutions can take toward achieving it.


We seek to: expose readers to variations in the ways that "social justice," "education," and "equity/inequity" are conceptualized and defined when presented as part of an educational leadership agenda; present specific data and examples on how educational leaders can advance social justice as part of upholding educational leadership and other educational standards; offer dominant and non-dominant perspectives on the responsibilities and commitments of educational leaders to social justice; share historical accounts of educational leadership and social justice efforts; identify policy and funding mechanisms that support social justice advocacy by educational leaders and the communities they serve.



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<http://www.psyc.jmu.edu/assessment/>
- M.A. in Psychological Sciences
(Quantitative Psychology)
<http://www.psyc.jmu.edu/psycsciences/quantitativepsyc.html>
- Graduate Certificate in Higher Education
<http://www.jmu.edu/outreach/programs/all/assessment/>

MSC 6808 Harrisonburg, VA
22807 assessment@jmu.edu
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The Graduate Lounge

Kisong Kim
St. John's 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 represented at NERA.

GSIC News

The GSIC has selected topics for the two GSIC-sponsored sessions at this year's conference: "Surviving through it: Surviving the Dissertation process" and "Job search: What to prepare during a doctoral program." Though aimed towards graduate students, we hope these sessions will appeal to a wide range of NERA members. If you have questions or thoughts about either of these sessions, feel free to contact us at neragraduatestudents@gmail.com.

GSIC Call for New Members

Serving on the GSIC is a great way to get involved with NERA and build relationships with other graduate students. Responsibilities include collaborating with students from various institutions to plan GSIC sponsored in-conference sessions, and the GSIC student social. New members are selected each year after the NERA Conference.

For more information on how to apply and get involved, please contact
neragraduatestudents@gmail.com.



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