

The NERA Researcher

The President's Message



I hope you all had a great summer. It is hard to believe that our annual conference is only over one month away. The Conference Team has been working very hard to create an engaging program for the first in-person conference post-pandemic. While you will find more details in the *Researcher*, I can't wait to share a few highlights. With the theme of *Supporting Student Learning in a Dynamic Environment*, in addition to about 100 research presentations across a large variety of topics, esteemed keynote speakers will present on defining and measuring social and emotional learning,

STEM research towards inclusivity, and Equity. Distinguished panelists will share their thoughts on student well-being, gender and racial equity, balanced assessment systems, and next-generation educational testing standards. In addition, you will learn from several informative sessions focusing on job searching and self-care for our graduate students and young professionals.

Additionally, we are fortunate to have a group of NERA Past Presidents to discuss supporting student learning post-COVID using assessment and technology. We are also excited to bring back the 3MT Competition and other social events to connect with other NERA members. Finally, with love and admiration, we will host a special tribute to remember Ron Hambleton, the dearest professor, mentor, advisor, and friend to many of our members.

I want to thank everyone involved in making the conference possible, including the conference chairs, committee members and chairs, the Board of Directors, executive members, and most importantly, our dedicated members like you. I would also like to thank our supportive institutional members. We have received over \$24,000 in sponsorship commitments to help subsidize the costs of the

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The NERA Researcher

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

Message from the Editors

As always, we send our best wishes to our NERA family and hope you and your families and loved ones are safe and well. That is what we wrote to you last year and the year before. And the sentiment is still true. However, this year we also look forward to seeing you face-to-face in October in Trumbull, CT. Our co-chairs, Kate, Beth, Duy, and Frank, have worked tirelessly to plan another great NERA conference but in-person at last. As we celebrate 53 years of membership and fellowship, the co-chairs, President Nina Deng and the committee chairs and members have put together a program which we think will provide something for everyone. In the coming weeks, you will receive emails with additional information about the conference. Be sure to read Nina's moving and on-target President's Message. You'll also find a preliminary description of the program, particularly the two keynotes: Christina Cipriano and Darrell Earnest, and several workshops and invited panels. Finally, there will be a Remembrance to honor Ron Hambleton of the University of Massachusetts Amherst given by April Zenisky, Charlie DePascale, Jerome Clauser, and Steve Sireci. So, if you would like to join us for another stimulating and fun NERA conference and have a chance to connect or re-connect with your colleagues and friends, there is complete information about becoming a member or renewing your membership, registering for the conference, and securing a room at the Trumbull Marriott Shelton in the following pages. In addition, catch up on the Membership Advocacy and Mentoring Committees and find out what the GSIC Graduate Lounge has in store and some of the awards. Michael and I look forward to seeing all of you in October. Safe travels. Barbara J. Helms
Michael Wolter
NERA Researcher Co-Editors

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conference. The conference wouldn't be possible without your generous and invaluable support.

During the summer, I spent some time reflecting on what happened in society and what we could do to make it a better world for our students. The Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion initiative has attracted significant attention at schools, universities and everywhere in our country. I admire promoting a place where differences are welcomed and valued, and I heartily support creating an equal opportunity for all human beings. We see some excellent practices in culturally responsive teaching at schools. I believe these initiatives will create a more inclusive environment and a more open-minded generation. In the meantime, I also reflect on the meaning of equality and diversity and question race-based policies. I believe that as human beings, we should always be evaluated based on what we say and do, not the color of our skin. Racial classification could be as close as possible to racial discrimination. Unfortunately, race plays a significant role in many critical educational policies, ranging from anti-standardized testing to race-conscious college admission. Sixty years later, Dr. King's dream of living in a nation where people "will not be judged by the color of their skin, but by the content of their character" still holds true.

I am also profoundly horrified and saddened by the mass school shootings this year. Ten years after the Sandy Hook shooting, we were shocked to see the same tragedy again at Robb Elementary School. I am distraught to find out that the past school year (2021-2022) has been the worst period, with 193 incidents of gunfire in K-12 schools. As educators, researchers, teachers, and parents, each of us should think about meaningful actions and do our part to prevent gun violence, which has infected thousands of schools and millions of our students. I don't have an easy answer today and now, but I know collectively we can find the answer because we all care about our students, and they need a safer place to live before they can learn. I hope we will see more discussion about this in future research.

It has been an incredible honor to serve as your President and work with you over the past year. I can't wait to see you all in October to celebrate what we have accomplished and look ahead to what we will achieve in the future!

Sincerely,
Nina Deng
Your NERA President

Member News

NERA President-Elect Bo

Bashkov has been promoted to Manager of Research at IXL Learning. Bo joined IXL Learning Canada in October 2020 as Lead Research Scientist and relocated to IXL Learning headquarters in the San Francisco Bay Area in January 2022.

NERA Director Henry A. "Hank" Johnson was appointed as the Business Management Department Chair at the New England Institute of Technology in July.

Rebecca S. Natow, EdD, assistant professor of educational leadership and policy and director of the Higher Education Leadership and Policy Studies program at Hofstra University, was awarded a Channing Briggs Small Research Grant from the NASPA Foundation to study the role of higher education Title IX administrators as policy actors. The purpose of this study is to understand how higher education Title IX administrators implement federal Title IX policy on college campuses and how this experience shapes their policy consciousness. The research will also examine the extent to which the administrators engage in other policy work regarding Title IX.

NERA Infrastructure

Committee member Paulius

Satkus, PhD, successfully defended his dissertation in March 2022 titled "The Use of Complex-Structure Items in Multi-Stage Testing". After receiving his PhD in Assessment & Measurement from James Madison University in May, he began his new position as an Associate Psychometrician at the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC).



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Member News (cont.)

GSIC Chair and 2023 Conference Co-Chair

Matthew Speno, PhD, has accepted a fellowship with the Center for Childhood and Youth Studies at Salem State University. Dr. Yvonne Vissing will be my mentor, and I will join several colleagues from around the globe participating in their CCYS fellowships. This opportunity will provide me with research to publish and ultimately provide valuable experience as I progress towards tenure, albeit a few years later. I am developing a study about the foster care system in the USA and how CTE can positively impact educational and placement stability. In addition, the Association for Career and Technical Education has tapped me for the Special Populations Section Lead. This leadership role is where I can drive the national conversation regarding marginalized groups and their relationship/access to career and technical education.

***Please consider submitting
your professional
accomplishments to The
NERA Researcher for
recognition! Submissions
may be sent to
[theneraresearcher@nera-
education.org](mailto:theneraresearcher@nera-education.org).***



2022 NERA Elections

Steven Holtzman, Chair

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

For President:

- Hank Johnson, New England Institute of Technology
- Jonathan Steinberg, Educational Testing Service

For Board of Directors:

- Thilagha Jagaiah, University of Hartford
- Kate Nolan, Curriculum Associates
- Thai Ong, National Board of Medical Examiners
- Beth Perkins, American Association of Colleges & Universities
- Matthew Speno, Salem State University

In early September, each member received an e-mail with voting instructions. Voting remains open through Thursday, September 22, 2022, at 11:59 PM (EDT).

We want to thank the candidates for running for these vital roles, everyone for submitting nominations, and members for voting. We would also like to thank Kelly Rewley and the Infrastructure Committee for organizing and running the 2022 election.

If you have any questions about the 2022 NERA election, please feel free to reach out to me at nominationscommittee@nera-education.org.

Thanks,

Steven Holtzman

Your Past President and Chair of the Nominations Committee



53rd Annual NERA Conference

October 19-21, 2022

Trumbull Marriott Shelton, Trumbull, CT

Supporting Student Learning in a Dynamic Environment

Dear NERA Members,

We are so excited about the upcoming NERA 2022 conference and can't wait to see you all in person, at last, starting October 19th through the 21st! We are once again convening at the Trumbull Marriott Shelton in Trumbull, CT.

This year's conference theme, *Supporting Student Learning in a Dynamic Environment*, speaks to the evolving environment in which our student learners across the country find themselves. Therefore, we need research-based solutions to support student well-being in this constantly changing and non-traditional learning environment.

We received many fabulous workshop proposals, lined up many engaging speakers, and invited panel discussions. As always, you can expect interesting paper and poster presentations, as well as great roundtable discussions. Please find important conference and hotel registration information and program highlights from the upcoming conference in your email. The preliminary program will be available in mid-September, and the finalized version will be available in the first week of October.



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53rd Annual NERA Conference

Preliminary Program

Wednesday, October 19

Workshops:

- An Introduction to Diagnostic Measurement Models (Matthew J. Madison, University of Georgia)
- Facilitating (Truly) Trauma-Informed Classrooms in a Post-Pandemic World (Turea M. Hutson, Drexel University)
- Self-care During your Dissertation and Job Searching (Michelle Gonzalez, Brightside Behavioral Health)

Graduate Student Social Event

Opening Dinner and Keynote Speaker: Christina Cipriano, Yale University — Defining and Measuring Social and Emotional Learning So All Students Thrive: Opportunities and Challenges for Educational Researchers

Social and emotional learning, or SEL, and the ways that it is defined and measured in support of all students thriving has been a critical conversation in the national education discourse for the better part of the past decade. What is SEL, and what have we learned from high-quality SEL implementation and assessments that can support the meaningful inclusion of all learners in SEL? In this keynote, Dr Cipriano will unpack the operational definition of SEL, identify what we know and don't about SEL assessment, and discuss examples of how SEL research and practice are being applied to support wellness and effective learning environments for students and their teachers, pose critical considerations for educational researchers when choosing and using SEL assessments, and identify opportunities for SEL assessment to support equitable and inclusive school communities hereafter.

Welcome Reception and 3MT Competition: We will continue this fan-favorite event from 2019. Check your email for more information on this competition, and please consider volunteering to present your research! During the 3MT competition, conference participants have three minutes to efficiently explain the breadth and significance of their research in a presentation aimed at a non-technical audience. Winners in each category receive prizes!

Thursday, October 20

Workshop: Designing Schools for Equity (Kevin Mattingly and Sybille Bruun-Moss, Riverdale Country School)

Invited Panels/Symposia:

- Women In Measurement: A Journey towards Racial and Gender Equity
 - Jennifer Dunn, Fiona Hinds, Jade Caines Lee, Ellen Forte
- Our Thoughts for the Next Version of the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing
 - Kristen Huff, Stephen Sireci, Rochelle Michele, Ellen Forte
- Building a Balanced System of Assessments
 - Jade Caines Lee, Longjuan Liang, Gil Andrada, Harold Doran, Lily Marietto
- Beyond the Grade: Expanding the Predictors and Outcomes of Education
 - Chris Patterson, Renee Delgado-Riley, Rory Lazowski, Ross Markle
- So, You Want to Work in EdTech? What Kinds of Job Opportunities are Out There and How to Get Into the Field
 - Katrina Roohr, Bo Bashkov, Madison Holzman, Abbie Lopuch, Victoria Yaneva

Lunch and Keynote Speaker: STEM Research Towards Inclusivity and Equity (Darrell Earnest, University of Massachusetts Amherst)

Research in STEM areas has made strides for more inclusive and equitable practices. There continues to be a critical need for research that broadens access and diversifies these areas. This session will consider how intersectional research might support moving towards greater inclusivity and equity. Two projects will be shared that seek to broaden access to these areas

across K-16 education. First, I share efforts to develop cultural sustaining assessment tools in an urban school district. Bringing together computer science education and anthropology, everyday knowledge of first-grade children and their families was gathered through a series of family interviews in order to identify informal computational thinking at play. Second, I consider undergraduates with learning disabilities (LD) and their efforts to manage their time, coordinate efforts in higher education, disability studies, and mathematics education and lead to a framework for providing academic support for LD students.

Remembrance of Ron Hambleton: April Zenisky, Charlie DePascale, Jerome Clauser, Stephen Sireci

NERA Mentoring Session

Dinner and Presidential Address

Evening Entertainment: Talent show, Karaoke, and music

Friday, October 21st

Workshop: Transforming our Practice to Support the Immigrant and Other Culturally Diverse Students in Our Classrooms (Neisha Terry Young, Drexel University)

Invited Panels:

- Switching Jobs in Educational Measurement: Advice and Insights
 - Carol Barry, Bo Bashkov, Matthew Madison, Ross Markle, Becca Runyun
- Past President Panel: Using Assessment and Technology to Support Student Learning Post-COVID
 - Kristen Huff, Rochelle Michel, Javarro Russell, Stephen Sireci, John Young

Lunch and NERA Business Meeting

We can't wait to see you in October and hope you are as excited about this year's conference as we are. There are still sponsorship opportunities available. To obtain a sponsor prospectus, please contact NERA President Nina Deng at nndeng@gmail.com.

NERA 2022 Conference Co-Chairs,
Kate Nolan, Frank Padellaro, Beth Perkins, and Duy Pham
Nera.cochairs@gmail.com

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53rd Annual NERA Conference

Conference and Hotel Registration

Becoming a Member or Renewing Your NERA Membership

All attendees of the 2022 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 visit the NERA website <http://www.nera-education.org/>. You may also use the link in the renewal invoice distributed several months ago if you need to renew your membership. Feel free to reach out to the conference co-chairs with questions at nera.cochairs@gmail.com.

Registering for the 2022 Conference

Once you have become a new member or renewed your membership, you can register for the event by clicking on [register for the Annual NERA Conference](#)

Conference registration includes 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 at this time to indicate the meals you plan to attend.

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

All online conference registration fees are processed through PayPal; however, you do not have to have a PayPal account to make a payment. Instead, 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 September 30th**! After this date, a late fee will be added to the regular rates. The following are the registration fees for this year: **2022 Conference Registration – On or Before September 30th (after September 30th):**

Professional Member - \$195.00 (\$250.00)

Full-time Student - \$70.00 (\$100.00)

Retired Member - \$120.00 (\$120.00)

Booking your room at the Trumbull Marriott

Book your hotel by **September 30th** to ensure you get the discounted rate of \$159 per night.

Click to [Book your room for the Annual NERA Conference](#).

Or use the link:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=i660577077930&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

It is a NERA-specific link that ensures you get the discounted rate. You may also call the hotel at 203-378-1400 and let them know you are attending the NERA conference.



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THE GRADUATE LOUNGE

Dr. Matthew Speno, GSIC Chair

Hello Autumn!

As of this writing, we are about six weeks from meeting in Trumbull for our Annual Conference. Everyone in GSIC is excited to “be” with everyone in person. After the last couple of years, we deserve this!!!

The GSIC will provide two conference sessions to assist graduate students who are doctoral candidates in the throes of the journey:

Our first session, *Selfcare and the Dissertation Journey* will be a quasi-panel and roundtable discussion on evergreen topics like eating well, getting enough sleep, exercising, and cultivating hobbies with the twist of understanding how your Pandemic coping strategies can be applied to your academic journey and beyond.

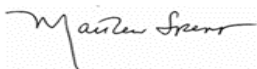
The second session, *Before the Loans Come Due: Finding the Job!* will help graduate students consider professional life after their dissertation defense, specifically finding *the JOB!* The session is geared toward providing information and practical tips/strategies for Grads and Post-docs to consider during their job search. During our time together, we will explore topics such as how a postdoc employment plan can be created, how a cover letter for academia differs from a “general” cover letter, and how to maximize your professional network.

Best Paper by a Graduate Student Award 2022

If you are the first author on a paper you present at the 2022 NERA conference, please consider submitting your paper for the 2022 Best Paper by a Graduate Student Award. The recipient will be recognized at the 2023 NERA conference. Papers must be submitted by Monday, November 7th.

We hope to see you in Trumbull, and if you are considering joining the GSIC, please do not hesitate to reach out with any questions you may have.

Best,



Matthew Speno, Ed. D.
Chair, GSIC
2023 Conference Co-Chair
neragraduatestudents@gmail.com

2021 Best Paper by a Graduate Student Award

Dr. LèTanya Lawrence, University of Bridgeport



The Graduate Student Issues Committee (GSIC) would like to congratulate Dr. LèTanya T. E. Lawrence, Assistant Director of Special Education at Cooperative Educational Services in Trumbull, CT. LèTanya's paper *Understanding Induction and K-12 Black Women Educators First* was selected as the 2021 Best Paper by a Graduate Student award. This qualitative case study aimed to explore the individual induction experiences of BWEs in Connecticut urban public schools. Despite the unique challenges BWEs in this sample have endured that have triggered their career movement, BWEs continue to persist past adversity and remain in the field.

Dr. Lawrence built her career as an urban educator, researcher, and advocate for equity, inclusion, and accessibility. Throughout her educational career, LèTanya has used data-informed practices to support program evaluation and the development of inclusive spaces that allow staff, students, and families to experience a sense of belonging. She began her love for education as a sophomore in high school when she joined the Today's Students Tomorrow's Teacher Program, a "grow your own" teacher development program.

Dr. Lawrence started her teaching career in NYC as a self-contained teacher of students with multiple handicapping conditions. She has also served as an inclusion co-teacher and curriculum designer working closely with her colleagues in different leadership capacities in CT as a special education department head, special education coordinator, supervisor of special education and director of students' services. She has supported the development of special education data and intervention teams. In addition, she has supervised, coached, and developed district-wide teams supporting students in Pk-22.

Throughout her educational journey, Dr. Lawrence has supported school partners across the Tri-state area on equity, special education transition, student discipline, co-teaching, culturally responsive family engagement, student attendance & engagement, special education leadership, and cultural intelligence. LèTanya is a passionate advocate for Intersectionality issues of race, gender, and ability as well as she serves on the Board of Directors for the Epilepsy Foundation of Connecticut.

Dr. Lawrence graduated from Manhattan College with a B.S and M.S. Ed in special education, Sacred Heart University with a CAS in Education Leadership, and received my Doctorate in International Education and Educational Leadership from the University of Bridgeport in 2021. This summer, LèTanya will begin as the new Assistant Director of Special Education at Cooperative Educational Services in Trumbull, CT.



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2022 Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper Award Announcement

Rochelle S. Michel, Chair

Presenters at the 2022 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 2023 American Educational Research Association (AERA) Annual Meeting (to be held in Chicago, IL).

This year's award will be given to the best paper presented by one or more authors at the 2022 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 2022 NERA conference to enter presented papers meeting the research study requirements described above. Please email two copies by Monday, November 7, to the committee Chair, Rochelle Michel (nera.woollatt.award.submission@gmail.com). One copy should be a Blind copy without any author identifying information on the title page, and one copy that includes a title page with each author's names, affiliations, and email addresses. We very much look forward to receiving your paper by Monday, November 7.



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2022 Membership Advocacy Committee Update

Pamela Kaliski, Chair

Hello NERA Members!

I hope you enjoyed your summer; Fall is underway, which means we are that much closer to our annual NERA conference!

This is the inaugural year of the Membership Advocacy Committee, and we are excited to connect with NERA members at the upcoming NERA conference. As a reminder, the charge of this committee is to advocate for all of the types of diversity that NERA members represent, focusing on making NERA members feel included in every aspect of the association. NERA is for everyone, and this committee will help to create a safe space that reflects our many layers of diversity. Since the Spring edition of the *NERA Researcher*, the main focus has been on populating the committee, and I am happy to share that we currently have four members: Ann Burns, Tajma Cameron, Thai Ong, and myself (Pamela Kaliski). We would still like to add a few more to our committee, so please reach out if you or someone you know may be interested in joining this exciting group.

At the conference this year, we plan to schedule some time where we can listen and learn from membership through some focus groups as well as informal conversations. Please stay tuned for more information about these opportunities. We will also be reaching out to our members who cannot attend the conference this year because we want to hear from everyone. What we learn this year will shape our goals and initiatives for the next few years. We are looking forward to listening and learning from you all.



ENDICOTT

C O L L E G E

Update from the NERA Mentoring Program (Co-Chairs *Bethany Fishbein, Kerry Cotter, & Sarah Ferguson*)

The NERA Mentoring Program strives to facilitate meaningful connections for NERA participants through two key approaches: 1) conference-based connections and 2) year-round virtual events/discussions.

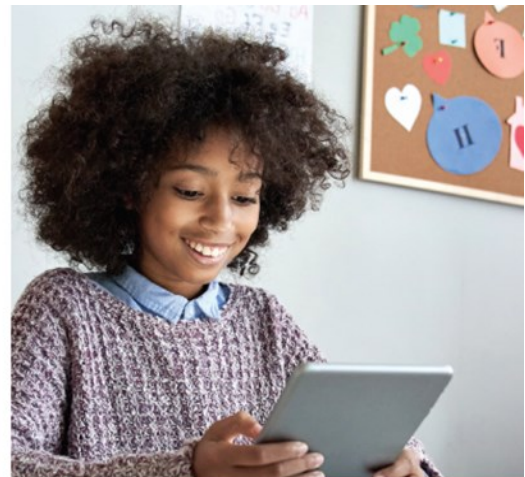
The conference-based Mentoring Program has existed since 2012 and serves as a focused, hand-selected match-making process. Each year, the Mentoring Program co-chairs collect information from members who volunteer to be a mentor or want to be mentored. Mentor-Mentee pairs are matched based on research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

This year as we plan to return to in-person conferencing, the Mentoring Program is planning options and opportunities for mentees and mentors to connect both in person and in virtual spaces as best fit needs this fall. More information on the program will be shared as we get closer to the conference dates, so keep an eye on your email this summer if you are interested!



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