

The NERA Researcher

The President's Message



Javarro Russell

And, finally spring is here! I hope that our teachers and faculty members are wrapping up an engaging and productive semester at your institution or school, and our professionals in the industry are at least enjoying their commutes a bit more. It is this time of year that many of us start thinking about our fall conferences. With the Call for Proposals already out for your review and consideration, I hope that you all feel inspired to present your research to your colleagues and peers at the 49th annual meeting of NERA.

Honoring the Past in Educational Research, While Looking Ahead: What Does the Future Hold? This theme came to us as we were thinking about the impact of the research we present, not only on the next phase of our research agenda, but also on students and the process of educating them. We wanted to nudge you all to spend some time reflecting on the work that inspired your research agendas, and revisiting the implications and future directions of your work. It is our ability to thoughtfully consider past research and to make projections onto the future state of affairs that makes our work so interesting, if not compelling. So as you are developing your proposals for this year's conference, consider our theme and be thoughtful in your reflections and bold in your projections.

The 2018 conference co-chairs, [Jade Caines Lee](#) (University of New Hampshire) and [Tabitha McKinley](#) (State of New Jersey Department of Education) are working diligently to provide a program that is thoughtful and reflects the rich history of the organization's efforts to promote quality educational research. Our keynote speaker will be [Mr. Terry Mazany](#) who perfectly embodies this year's conference theme based on his service in urban public school districts, as well as his appointment to the National Assessment Governing Board. We also plan to dig through the NERA archives to find researchers who have presented in areas that have evolved substantively, and allow them to reflect on those changes.

Also, please note that we'll be taking a membership-driven approach to the workshops. The process for submitting a workshop is separate from submitting your conference proposals. The due date for the workshop proposals was Monday, 5/14. The next steps will be for the membership to vote on which workshops will be part of the program.

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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

Greetings NERA Members,

Spring has arrived and we hope that everyone is enjoying the longer days and warmer weather!

This issue of *The NERA Researcher* contains the 2018 Conference Call for Proposals, as well as an overview of conference events and highlights. Please consider submitting some of your own work to present at the conference, as well as recommending the event to others in your network.

This issue also contains nomination calls for a number of awards; please read the award descriptions and consider nominating someone you know! There are also several NERA-related positions that will be opening later this year, including the webmaster and *NERA Researcher* production co-editor positions.

As always, thank you to Barbara Helms for her assistance in editing *The NERA Researcher*.

Enjoy the summer and we look forward to seeing everyone at the conference this fall!

Katherine Reynolds and Katrina Roohr
The Editors

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Educational Testing Service
jrussell@ets.org

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University of Massachusetts Amherst
cswells@educ.umass.edu

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Educational Testing Service
rmichel@ets.org

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Educational Testing Service
treasurer@nera-education.org

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Rutgers University
haifa.m.elfonte@gmail.com

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llawrence@mec.cuny.edu

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HumRRO
tia.m.fechter.ctr@mail.mil

Pamela Kaliski (2017-2020)
The College Board
pamela.kaliski@gmail.com

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Educational Testing Service
rmarkle@ets.org

Nina Deng (2017-2020)
Measured Progress
nddeng@gmail.com

Andrew Jones (2016-2019)
American Board of Surgery
ajones@absurgery.org

Kisong Kim (2017-2018)
St. John's University
kisongk@gmail.com

Appointed Positions

2018 Conference Co-Chairs:
Tabitha McKinley
New Jersey Department of Education
tabitha.mckinley@doe.state.nj.us

Jade Caines Lee
University of New Hampshire
jade.lee@unh.edu

The NERA Researcher Co-Editors:
Katrina Roohr
Educational Testing Service
kroohr@ets.org

Katherine Reynolds
Boston College
katherir@bc.edu

NERA Webmaster:
Bo Bashkov
American Board of Internal Medicine
bo.bashkov@gmail.com

NERA Conference Proceedings Co-Editor for Digital Commons:
Jason Kopp
American Board of Surgery
koppjp@gmail.com

Mentoring Program Co-Chairs:
Jerusha Henderek
National Board of Medical Examiners
jhenderek@nbme.org
Tanesia Beverly
Law School Admissions Council
tanesia.beverly@uconn.edu

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University of Arizona
MonicaErbacher@gmail.com

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University of California Los Angeles
mjmadison@ucla.edu

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cswells@educ.umass.edu

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St. John's University
kisongk@gmail.com

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russeld@wpunj.edu

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St. John's University
tina.tsiokris@hotmail.com

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cswells@educ.umass.edu

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laur@jmu.edu

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koppjp@gmail.com

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Rowan University
fergusons@rowan.edu

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Educational Testing Service
rmichel@ets.org

Strategic Planning Chair:
April Zenisky
University of Massachusetts Amherst
azenisky@educ.umass.edu

Between now and October I will be working with the conference co-chairs and the Board of Directors to identify webinars and other activities for NERA members to enjoy. Our goal is to continue to offer experiences and opportunities outside of the conference for our members. Be on the lookout for invitations to these webinars or events in the near future. Also, feel free to offer suggestions for the types of events or activities you all would be interested in.

The Board of Directors is also working on financial goals for NERA. We have a subcommittee that will be dedicating time to identifying appropriate fiscal strategies to keep our organization strong. We are also in the beginning stages of bringing together a site selection committee. This committee will be charged with ensuring that the hotel and accommodations continue to suit the needs of our organization. Your President-Elect Rochelle Michelle will be leading this committee. We all will be looking forward to their recommendations.

In closing, I would like to wish you all a wonderful spring and summer. The next time I write to you, we'll be about a month away from the fall conference. I hope to see you all there. Until then, here is a haiku from one of my favorite poets.

*Reflection for you
Brings context to your research
In ways that inspire*

By Javarro Russell

Member News

Dr. Maria Pesce Stasaitis recently received a promotion and went from a 7th grade English Language Arts teacher to Vice Principal at the Waterbury Arts Magnet School. She also recently had an article accepted for publication in the Journal of Education: Stasaitis, M. P. (in press). Intervention instruction in argumentative writing. *The Journal of Education*.

Jonathan Steinberg has accepted an invitation to chair the AERA Division D Communications Sub-Committee for the 2018-2019 cycle, which represents an opportunity to build on the previous successes through the NERA Communications Committee with a potentially broader reach.

Tabitha McKinley was elected Vice President for Organizational Development for The Consortium of State and Regional Educational Research Associations (SRERA).

With deep regrets, we announce that Dr. Harry Bowman, *President Emeritus* of the Consortium of State and Regional Educational Research Associations (SRERA) passed away on April 22, 2018. He contracted a severe case of pneumonia while attending AERA in New York and was unable to overcome it upon his return home in Florida. His complete obituary is located here: <https://www.memorialparkfuneralandcemetery.com/obits/harry-bowman/>

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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Call for Proposals

49TH Annual Conference

October 17-19, 2018

Trumbull Marriott Merritt Parkway, Trumbull, Connecticut

As a regional affiliate of the American Educational Research Association, NERA invites proposals spanning all areas of educational research for our annual meeting. We welcome proposals from new and experienced researchers. Below you will find the conference theme, general requirements for NERA proposals as well as specific guidelines corresponding to the four session formats. For more information about the conference, including FAQs about NERA proposals, visit NERA at www.nera-education.org.

Conference Theme: "Honoring the Past in Educational Research, While Looking Ahead: What Does the Future Hold?"

"Oh, how quickly we forget" is a quote that my parents would use when nudging my complaining siblings and me to consider all of the good things they've done for us. They wanted to teach us not to forget the sacrifices made or the hard work that went into creating the environment that we currently enjoy. The production of educational research can be traced back to the mid-19th century in America. Since this time, researchers have been able to stand on the achievements of peers that have come before them for the sole purpose of achieving more in the field of education. These achievements have been seen in educational research methodology, technology, and in more effective and efficient educational practices. Even more, the expansiveness of educational research has allowed us to investigate the impact of our educational systems and interventions on groups of students that truly reflect the diversity of our nation.

These past achievements in educational research will help today's researchers build the logical case for their papers and presentations at the annual NERA Conference. By reflecting on the past work of our peers, we can better appreciate the hard work in research and in practice that has led us to this moment. This solid foundation, built by previous research will allow today's researchers to be bold in their assertions about the future, with the security of knowing that the hard work will continue.

For the 2018 conference, we encourage NERA members and affiliates to be thoughtful about the research that predates your work and to be bold in your assertions about the future of your research. **Although we encourage session proposals related to the conference theme, this is not a requirement for submissions.**

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Submission Requirements

- Complete information for author(s) including affiliation(s)
- Descriptive title (**maximum: 15 words**)
- Three keywords
- Description of paper to appear in the conference program (**maximum: 50 words**).
- Proposal, NOT including tables, figures, and references (**maximum: 1000 words**).
 - The proposal should include: study purpose, theoretical framework, methodology, results, conclusions, and educational implications. *Only completed or nearly completed (i.e., all data collected, most analyses completed and summarized) research will be accepted.*
 - *Note:* Refer to the Proposal FAQ for details about the organization for proposals that may not lend themselves to each of the sections listed above
 - Warning: Proposals with more than **1000 words** will not be accepted.

Submission Format

The proposal submission form is currently online and accessible on the NERA website. At the time of submission, authors will be required to select from a list of descriptive keywords to categorize their proposal.

Submission Review Process

- Proposals *must* be submitted electronically by **Monday, June 4th, 2018 (11:59pm EST)**.
- 2 to 3 NERA members will blindly review each proposal.
- Each proposal will be judged according to the following criteria: educational or scholarly significance, perspective or theoretical framework, appropriateness of methodology, clarity of expression, and appeal to NERA membership.
- Proposal decisions will be emailed to first authors in mid-August. Details about session dates and times will follow when the program is finalized.





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49th Annual Conference Overview and Welcome

October 17-19, 2018

Trumbull Marriott Merritt Parkway, Trumbull, Connecticut

Hi NERA Members!

We are excited to share information and details regarding our intense planning for this year's annual conference. First, we would like to thank all of those who responded to the 2017 conference evaluation survey. We most definitely used your feedback in planning this year's conference. Also, we would like to thank the 2017 Conference Chairs, Whitney Smiley, Daniel Jurich, and Jason Kopp, as well as Past President Craig Wells for their excellent work in making the 2017 conference an amazing success.

This year's conference will return to the Marriott Hotel in Trumbull, CT for the fourth time. The dates of the Conference are October 17-19, 2018. Membership and conference registration forms will be available on the NERA website (<http://www.nera-education.org>) this summer. This year's conference theme is "*Honoring the Past in Educational Research, While Looking Ahead: What Does the Future Hold?*" Continuing from last year, we want to provide the opportunity for all members to connect their research to the conference theme. As you submit your proposals, we invite you to indicate whether your paper directly relates to the theme for possible inclusion in a Spotlight session.

Additionally, we have a number of other great sessions and activities planned:

Professional Development Workshops: There will be pre-conference workshops at this year's conference. For the second time, we are soliciting proposals for workshops. A new and exciting feature is that this year workshop selections will be membership driven. Once the workshop deadline passes (5/14/18), we will compile the workshop descriptions and distribute to members for a vote. Stay tuned!

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

Conference App: We will continue to use the conference app to provide conference information, facilitate interactions among NERA members at the conference, as well as allow researchers to share their slides and papers with colleagues easily.

We are excited to announce our keynote and invited speakers, who have expertise in a number of different areas:

Keynote Speaker: Our keynote this year will be given by **Dr. Terry Mazany** who served as the *Past Chairman of the National Assessment Governing Board*.

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Keynote Panel: We will be hosting a panel discussing trends in Urban School Education. Currently, this panel will feature **Dr. Ray Hart**, *Council of Great City Schools*, **Dr. Kyndra Middleton**, *Associate Professor at Howard University*, **Dr. Andrew Hudacs**, *Maine Department of Education*, and **Dr. Virginia Russell**, *Associate Professor at Hunter College*.

GSIC Session: Learn how to effectively communicate your research with **Bari Walsh** of the Harvard Graduate School of Education.

In addition to our amazing speaker and panelists, there will be several new and innovative offerings including a Parent Room for expectant and/or nursing moms (or for parents traveling with kids who just need a place to “be!”). Additionally, we are hosting a “Meet the Author” event for NERA members who have written a book and would love an opportunity to share it with others (if you are interested in learning more please [email](#) us ASAP).

We hope that you are planning to submit a proposal (the system is open until the deadline: **June 4, 2018**). If so, please visit the website to read the Call for Proposals and watch the interactive video that accompanies the Call. We also encourage you to distribute the Call to other educational researchers who may not have access to this publication. Even if you choose not to submit, we hope that you all are planning to attend the conference, and that you will also encourage friends and colleagues to attend.

We are looking forward to another successful and exciting NERA conference! For any questions, comments, or concerns pertaining to the conference, please feel free to reach out: nera18conference@gmail.com. We are enthusiastic to connect with all (and soon-to-be) members!

Thank you!

Best,

Dr. Tabitha McKinley
New Jersey Department of Education

Dr. Jade Caines Lee
University of New Hampshire

2018 Winter NERA Board Meeting — Highlights

The NERA Board of Directors convened for the Winter NERA Board meeting on January 19-20, 2018 at the Trumbull Marriott in Trumbull, CT. Below are some highlights from the Board meeting:

- The Board reviewed and approved the October 2017 Board Meeting minutes.
- Steven Holtzman presented the Treasurer's Report on the 2017 budget and the proposed 2018 budget. He went over the details of the operational budget and raised questions for the Board to consider regarding NERA funds. For example, should we switch to a more nationally recognized bank? Should we set up a savings account? Should we have a NERA credit card? Steven and the Board discussed the need for a long-term plan for NERA funds. A committee was formed with Ross Markle as the chair and Tia Fetcher, Craig Wells, and Steven Holtzman as co-chairs. Tia Fetcher was introduced as the next Treasurer starting January, 2019. This year will be a shadow year for Tia.
- Craig Wells presented the 2017 conference debrief on behalf of the 2017 co-chairs and discussed the total expenses and income from the 2017 conference as well as issues around workshop attendance.
- Tabitha McKinley and Jade Caines Lee (2018 conference co-chairs) presented the 2017 conference survey results and provided a summary of all of the 2018 conference planning activities. Be sure to attend this year's conference so that you can experience all of the exciting activities they have planned!
- NERA President, Javarro Russell, led a discussion on the NERA proceedings on behalf of the 2017 co-chairs. In short, very few papers are submitted to the NERA proceedings.
- Nina Deng presented *The NERA Researcher* Report on behalf of the co-editors, Katrina Roohr and Katherine Reynolds. There are concerns about receiving the articles on time. One of the issues contributing to this has to do with not having up to date information on who is the chair of a committee and/or who is new to the Board/cycled off. There is a need to formalize a process to note who is in what position.
- Javarro led a discussion around the role of Board Members as liaisons and proposed developing action items that would be a work in progress by the summer Board Meeting.
- Andrew Jones presented the Communications Committee Report on behalf of Monica Erbacher. Their goal is to be more active on social media.
- Kisong Kim presented the GSIC Report. They received positive feedback on the GSIC activities at the 2017 Conference. They are considering sponsoring a webinar.
- Ross Markle presented the Mentoring Committee Report on behalf of co-chairs Jerusha Henderek and Juliette Lyons-Thomas. There is a streamlined process for recruiting mentors now, and it is working very well.

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- Steven Holtzman presented the Infrastructure Committee Report on behalf of the Committee. Two major topics were discussed, including working with Vieth on improvements for the coming year, and whether to renew the contract for the Conference App. Vieth has been provided a list of improvements and so far, they have been working toward them and improvements should be finalized on schedule. The Board motioned to renew the contract for the conference app.
- Craig Wells presented the Nominations Committee Report. We have some Board members rotating off the Board in the coming year and will have a few openings. Would like to encourage folks from the Teacher-as-Researcher area to run for the Board.
- Andrew Jones presented the report from the Woollatt Distinguished Paper Award Committee on behalf of chair Abby (Lau) Cahill. There is a concern about the high workload associated with this committee and ensuring that its members can fulfill their duties.
- Salika Lawrence presented the Teacher-as-Researcher Report on behalf of the committee chair, Darlene Russell. A major point of discussion was to increase TAR sessions/activities at the conference. Javarro will work with the TAR committee to come up with ideas/proposals for engaging our TAR members.
- Working budget for the 2018 conference — The Board members requested that the co-chairs prepare a side-by-side comparison noting how much was spent in different areas on the conference last year versus what they expect to spend this year. The comparison would be helpful for them as they think on how to advise and provide input on the 2018 budget. The Board agreed to have a follow-up discussion over the phone and/or email and conduct an offline approval via email.

NERA Researcher Call for Production Co-Editor!

The NERA Researcher is looking for a new production co-editor to serve a three-year term beginning in 2019. The production co-editor works alongside the content co-editor and is responsible for assembling the newsletter three times a year (Winter, Spring, and Fall). Prior experience working with Microsoft Publisher is useful, but not required.

If interested in learning more about this role, please contact the current production co-editor, Katherine Reynolds, at katherir@bc.edu.



NORTHEASTERN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Teacher-as-Researcher Award is presented annually by the Northeastern Educational Research Association (NERA) to a PK-12 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 trial and evaluation. The project should also be related to a clearly defined theoretical focus and represent an innovation that has led to a concrete change in practice.



Classroom teachers are invited to apply directly for this award or be nominated by NERA members, school administrators, faculty, or other education personnel familiar with the teacher's research. All applications should be submitted no later than June 30, 2018.

TEACHER-AS-RESEARCHER AWARD

The 2018 awardee will be invited to speak about the research project at a session in October at the 49th Annual NERA Conference in Trumbull, CT and will 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, please contact:

Dr. Tina Tsiokris
TAR Award Interim Chair
St. John's University
E-mail:
tinatsiokris@hotmail.com

TEACHER-AS-RESEARCHER AWARD

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TEACHER-AS-RESEARCHER AWARD APPLICATION
49th ANNUAL CONFERENCE, October 2018
Trumbull Marriott Merritt Parkway, Trumbull, Connecticut

Name of Applicant: _____

Affiliation of Applicant: _____

Position of Applicant: _____

Mailing Address of Applicant: _____

_____ (after June 1, 2018)

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Attach the following information using the following **four** 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. The rationale for conducting the study
 - b. Description of project methods including participants, site, and procedures
 - c. Report and analysis of research findings
 - d. Discussion of the impact of the research on 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

Continued on page 13

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 the applicant):

Phone Number: _____ E-mail: _____

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

Signature of Nominating Person: _____ Date: _____

**Send the application cover sheet and narrative as a Word document to:
Dr. Tina Tsiokris, Interim Chair, tinatsiokris@hotmail.com no later than June 30, 2018.**

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CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE LEO D. DOHERTY MEMORIAL AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING LEADERSHIP AND SERVICE TO NERA

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. The Leo D. Doherty Award Committee for 2018 strongly encourage nominations for this award.

Nomination letters should be sent as an email attachment to **Elizabeth (Liz) Stone** at estone@ets.org no later than **June 30, 2018**. 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 Liz.

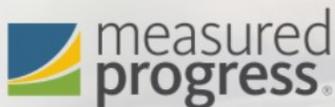
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**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE THOMAS F.
DONLON MEMORIAL AWARD FOR DISTINGUISHED
MENTORING**

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

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.

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 **Craig Wells** via email at cswells@educ.umass.edu by **June 30, 2018**. 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 her/himself as a mentor. Up to five separate letters of support can be sent for each nominee. The award will be presented at the 2018 NERA conference. Please contact Craig if you have any questions about the Donlon Award or the nomination process.



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2017 Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper Award Winner

Congratulations to Maria Y. Finger-Elam, the 2017 winner of the Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper Award for the paper entitled, *Efficacy of Blended-Learning Model Literacy Intervention for Struggling Adolescent Readers*, co-authored with Marquis Dwarto of Baltimore County Public Schools. Maria Finger-Elam is Supervisor of Research the Baltimore County Public Schools.

The award-winning paper addressed the problem of a stagnation in literacy achievement at the high school level. The research evaluated a blended-learning literacy intervention for high school students reading two or more years below grade level. The study found that students who fully engaged in the computer-adaptive instructional component of the intervention had the greatest gains in reading comprehension skills, with some students showing three times the improvement in reading skills than expected.

Maria received a NERA travel stipend to present this paper at the 2018 meeting of the American Educational Research Association Consortium of State and Regional Educational Research Associations. The paper was rated by the award committee members on its relevance, theoretical backing, clarity, design, analytical procedures, and presentation of results and conclusion, and received very high scores in each of the criteria - earning the highest overall rating of all eligible submissions.

The Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper Award is named in honor of Lorne Woollatt, a distinguished New York State educator and NERA member. It is awarded annually, and a plaque is given to the recipient at the subsequent year's conference. Research papers from the 2017 NERA conference were submitted by their authors to the award committee for this competitive award. Any questions about the award can be directed to the committee chair, **Abby (Lau) Cahill** at lauar@jmu.edu.

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS

We are seeking nominations for the following open elected positions:

- **NERA President** (3-year term as President-Elect, President, and Past-President)
- **NERA Board Members** (3-year term)

We have many great members who can be NERA's next leaders, but we need nominations from you to put together the slate for the 2018 election. Please send your nominations for President and Board Members to Craig Wells at cswells@educ.umass.edu by **June 30, 2018**. Note that all nominees must be current members of NERA. Please consider nominating yourself or a colleague for one of these important positions!

Update from the NERA Mentoring Program

Tanesia Beverly, *Law School Admissions Council*

Jerusha Henderek, *National Board of Medical Examiners*

The NERA Mentoring Program would like to thank Juliette Lyons-Thomas for her dedicated service as co-chair over the past few years. We welcome Tanesia Beverly from the Law School Admissions Council as our newest co-chair!

The Mentoring Program strives to facilitate meaningful connections for NERA participants through two key approaches: 1) conference-based connections, and 2) an online message board through the NERA website.

The conference-based Mentoring Program has existed since 2012 and serves as a focused process to hand-select and match mentors and mentees. 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 program benefit by receiving a mentor-mentee match based on a structured and informed process, having dedicated time during the conference to meet, and being able to make new connections outside of their existing social networks.

The other approach that is offered is the mentoring message board. This service is available 24 hours a day and can be accessed via the *Mentoring Board* link listed in the *Mentoring* dropdown tab on the [NERA site](#). From there, members can sign up to be a mentor, or potential mentees can view the contact information for mentor volunteers. Using this approach, members can sign-up or reach out at any point throughout the year and have the freedom to form their own mentor-mentee relationships. This may be especially useful to members who cannot attend the NERA annual conference, or would like to set up a time to meet at another professional meeting.

The co-chairs will be sending information this summer about how to participate in the conference-based Mentoring Program. Please feel free to reach out to Tanesia (tanesia.beverly@uconn.edu) and Jerusha (jhenderek@nbme.org) should you have any questions or suggestions for improving the Mentoring Program. We are looking forward to working with the NERA membership over the coming year!



Communications Committee Update and Call for Webmaster Nominations

Happy summer, NERA members! As we gear up for NERA, AERA, and additional conference deadlines, the Communications Committee has a couple of reminders, updates, and announcements to share. Below is a reminder of who we are and how to navigate the communications request process, a call for webmaster nominations, and an update on our recently restructured social media positions and content.

Communications Request Process and Committee Members

The Communications Committee's mission is to efficiently distribute important information to the NERA community and facilitate communication between educational researchers. If you have information you would like to distribute to the NERA community about award announcements, conference updates, information from our parent organization, the American Educational Research Association (AERA), or other topics, please fill out the communication request form on the NERA website (<http://www.nera-education.org/downloadables.php>). Communication responsibilities are divided by outlet. The outlets we currently use, the positions responsible for maintaining them, and associated committee members are listed below. Please email the completed request form to me (Monica Erbacher) and the coordinator(s) associated with the requested outlet(s).

- 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, University of Massachusetts Amherst, 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

Our invaluable webmaster, Bo Bashkov, is nearing the end of his term of service. The 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. Bo has been extremely knowledgeable, productive, and efficient in keeping the NERA website updated as well as contributing to other major Communications initiatives. We are looking for an eager and innovative individual to fill the webmaster position beginning in October 2018! Prior webmaster experience is not necessary, although experience with web content maintenance will be helpful.

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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) 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

Getting involved in a committee is an excellent way of networking with individuals at other institutions. The Communications Committee corresponds with anyone making a communications request and anyone following our social media sites. For graduate students and newer faculty members and professionals in particular, committee involvement is a great way to get your name out there. Additionally, NERA has become what it is thanks to enthusiastic volunteers and members like you. We look forward to receiving your nominations for webmaster soon!

Restructured Social Media Positions and Content

Beginning last fall, we restructured our social media position into two social media coordinators with updated duties. Frank Padellaro and Ali Söken manage NERA's social media accounts (Facebook, Twitter, LinkedIn), posting regular content relevant to NERA and educational researchers in general.

We want this content to be most relevant to you, the NERA members. Content can include a variety of information, such as a brief summary of a recent article with implications for educational research as a field, discussion questions about major issues or trends in the field, NERA announcements, and AERA announcements or updates. If you would like to contribute any of these modes of content to the NERA Facebook, LinkedIn, or Twitter pages/feeds, please email the content to Frank, Ali, and me (Monica). Our email addresses are located on the Communications Request form on the NERA website (<http://www.nera-education.org/downloadables.php>). We want our social media pages to represent your interests as members of NERA!

We hope you have had a pleasant spring 2018 and we urge you to consider getting involved, if you are not already, in a NERA committee in the near future. Have a wonderful summer and good luck with NERA conference submissions!

Monica K. Erbacher
Chair, Communications Committee



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In Memoriam: Mary Horan



Dear Friends,

When I first came to NERA in the early 80s, Mary Horan was the go-to person at NERA. She knew the history and had already been a member since the 70s. Some of you younger members may remember seeing Mary these past few years with another NERA alumni, Phil Archer.

I am sad to tell you that Mary died at her home in Albany, on January 4, 2018, unexpectedly. She was very excited when I saw her at NERA last October because she and her sister, Anne were going on a 3-week trip to Europe this summer and they were spending an extra couple of days in The Netherlands before taking one of those cruises down the Rhine. She knew that Ben and I live there part of the year and was hoping that we could suggest some sights they could see before sailing off on their cruise.

I spoke with her sister, Anne, who told me about Mary's great love of NERA and spoke of it often. To give you an idea of her involvement with NERA, before becoming President in 1984–85, she was a member of the Futures Committee and editor of the conference program abstracts in 1978–1979. From 1980 to 1982, Mary was the secretary-treasurer—back in the days when one person handled both of those tasks and everything was still done on paper, paid by check, registered by snail-mail, no electronic anything. She became program-co-chair with Jeffrey Dean in 1982–1983, before becoming president. In 1989 NERA finally recognized Mary for her outstanding leadership and service by awarding her the Leo D. Doherty Award. In fact, Mary was the chair of the group that first created the award after the death of Leo Doherty in 1979.

She was a graduate of Vincentian Institute, the College of Saint Rose, and earned a master's degree at the State University at Albany in educational psychology and statistics. Mary held several positions during her lengthy career at the New York State Education Department.

For those of you who did not know Mary, she was someone who was always there, always ready with an old NERA story or a piece of NERA history. She will be remembered and missed.

Regards,

Barbara J. Helms



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The Consortium of State and Regional Educational Research Associations

Rochelle Michel, *Educational Testing Service*

Have you heard of the Consortium of State and Regional Educational Research Associations (SRERA)? The Consortium SRERA supports state and regional educational research associations by providing a forum at the AERA annual meeting for the presentation of outstanding research from the state and regional levels. Each year at the AERA annual conference, SRERA highlights the recipients of the distinguished paper awards from their member organizations, of which NERA is one. The SRERA Distinguished Paper Sessions allows organizations like NERA to shine. The Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper Award winner is provided with an opportunity to present their paper alongside other state and regional award winners. At the 2018 AERA annual meeting in New York, the 2017 Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper, *Efficacy of Blended-Learning Model: Literacy Intervention for Struggling Adolescent Readers*, was presented by Maria Y. Finger-Elam.

Since SRERA is an organization of organizations, it relies on the members of the state and local educational research associations to keep itself going and support the great work that we do on the state and local level in recognizing our distinguished papers. At the 2018 SRERA business meeting, our very own NERA member, current conference co-chair, and past membership chair, Tabitha McKinley, was elected Vice President of Organizational Development for SRERA. In addition to the distinguished paper session, the AERA annual meeting provides SRERA with an opportunity to have a presence in the exhibit hall, which allows for the promotion of the various state and regional organizations. While Tabitha will be working for all the state and local organizations, I am sure that she will also make sure that NERA is well-represented. The AERA annual meeting is an opportunity for NERA to promote our ongoing programming, our upcoming conference, as well as show support for our sponsoring organization, SRERA.

As you plan your proposal submission for the 2018 NERA Conference, I hope that you will also plan to submit your paper for consideration for the Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper Award. Let's continue to show SRERA and AERA, how NERA members distinguish themselves.



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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: "Job Search" and "Dissertation Process." 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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