

The NERA Researcher

The President's Message



Happy spring! I hope you all enjoy the weather and some outdoor activities. After cold days and thawing snow, finally, spring brings new life and fresh hope. As the country continues to experience reduced COVID spread, many local governments have lifted the mask and other precaution mandates in public places. As a result, students and faculty start to go back to normal routines and events at schools. Whatever your role is, I hope you get a chance to enjoy the spring and some long-awaited gatherings with friends and family. During the past few weeks, many of us have

been transfixed by the unfolding events in the Russia-Ukraine war. It is NERA's priority to support all our members. We have members from Ukraine or Russia or with ties to these regions who are particularly vulnerable currently. Their safety and security are very much in our hearts. I would also like to ask that we separate our feelings about the governments from the people of these regions. It is important that all our members feel supported by our community. Finally, in this difficult time, it underlines cross-cultural awareness and understanding, empathy building, and social and emotional learning, which is essential in today's education and to the world's peace and civilization.

I am excited to share that it is the time of year that we start thinking more about our annual conference. The Conference Team (Beth Perkins, Duy Pham, Frank Padellaro, Kate Nolan) has been working tirelessly to ensure the best in-person experience for our members. As you will read in this issue of *The NERA Researcher*, we have the *Conference Overview* and *Call for Proposals* out for your review. In addition, we have some exciting speakers and featured sessions to provide thought-provoking discussions on supporting learning in this dynamic educational environment, with perspectives from technology, learning science, assessment of student well-

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The NERA Researcher

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

Message from the Editors

Happy spring! We hope you and your families and loved ones enjoy the first bursts of spring and stay safe and well. Your 2022 Conference Co-Chairs—Kate Nolan, Beth Perkins, Frank Padellaro, Duy Pham—and President Nina Deng are well underway for the 53rd Annual NERA Conference. We are all looking forward to our first face-to-face conference since 2019, but rest assured that the health and safety of our members remain their top priority. According to the most recent health guidelines, they will maintain protocols to ensure a comfortable and safe conference for everyone. So, we are all looking forward to seeing you in October at Trumbull, CT.

Throughout this issue, you will find lots of information, including the call for proposals and conference overview, and the FAQs. While looking at all the exciting sessions based on this year's theme, "Supporting Student Learning in a Dynamic Environment," do not forget to submit your nominations for the NERA leadership positions (p. 15). Consider submitting a proposal or volunteering as a reviewer—lots of possibilities to get involved.

Do you have a mentor who has been so amazing that you want to nominate them for the Thomas Donlon award, or maybe you know an outstanding NERA member you think we should consider for the Leo D. Doherty Award? Or an educator you would like to nominate for the Educator-as-Researcher awards?

I want to welcome our new Production Editor, Michael Wolter. Well done! We hope you enjoy reading this issue.

We look forward to seeing you at the 53rd Annual NERA Conference, October 19–21.

If you have ideas for articles or topics you would like to see or have ever considered writing an article for in the NERA Researcher, please contact us at theneraresearcher@nera-education.org.

Stay safe and well,
Barbara J. Helms and Michael Wolter
NERA Researcher Co-Editors

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being. I hope you feel as excited as I am and plan to submit and present your research to your colleagues at our annual meeting.

One NERA leadership goal is to increase the yearlong activities and engagement outside the annual conference. Out of that effort, I am pleased to welcome Shelby Perry as the new Social Media Coordinator. Shelby will work on creating more engaging social media posts in this role. In addition, I have been working with the Communication Committee, chaired by Mina Lee, to recruit new members to generate a regular digest to provide more inspiring and interactive communication with the members. Additionally, I will be collaborating with the Committee Chairs, Conference Team, and the Board of Directors between now and September to identify webinars and other yearlong activities. Finally, as NERA has been and continues to be a volunteer organization, I would like to invite you all to consider volunteering in these initiatives. Please feel free to contact me at nndeng@gmail.com to let me know your interests and suggestions. Your participation and input are critical to the organization's success and thank you in advance for your continued support.

I wish you all a wonderful spring and summer. See you in October at Trumbull, CT!

Sincerely,
Nina Deng



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Member News

Catherine A. Manly, Ph.D. (University of Massachusetts Amherst), successfully defended her doctoral dissertation "Utilization and Effect of Multiple Content Modalities in Online Higher Education: Shifting Trajectories Toward Success Through Universal Design for Learning" (https://scholarworks.umass.edu/dissertations_2/2408/). Her advisor was Dr. Ryan S. Wells. She is currently a Postdoctoral Researcher for the City University of New York Graduate Center in the Equity Through Education Research Group.

Xing Liu, a Professor of Educational Research and Assessment at Eastern Connecticut State University, has published a new book, *Categorical Data Analysis and Multilevel Modeling Using R*. [The official release date was March 2, 2022](https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/categorical-data-analysis-and-multilevel-modeling-usingr/book261372). It is now available for order through SAGE at <https://us.sagepub.com/en-us/nam/categorical-data-analysis-and-multilevel-modeling-usingr/book261372>

Rebecca S. Natow, Assistant Professor of Educational Leadership and Policy at Hofstra University, is the author of the book, *Reexamining the Federal Role in Higher Education: Politics and Policymaking in the Postsecondary Sector*, published by Teachers College Press in January 2022. The book is available from the publisher at: <https://www.tcpress.com/reexamining-the-federal-role-in-higher-education-9780807766767>

Please consider submitting your professional accomplishments to The NERA Researcher for recognition! Submissions may be sent to theneraresearcher@nera-education.org.

NERA CONFERENCE OVERVIEW AND WELCOME

October 19-21, 2022

Trumbull Marriott Shelton, Trumbull, CT

Kate Nolan, Beth Perkins, Frank Padellaro, Duy Pham, Conference Co-Chairs

Dear NERA Members,

We are looking forward to meeting with you all in October and delivering the 53rd Annual NERA Conference. This year's conference theme is "Supporting Student Learning in a Dynamic Environment." As co-chairs, we have been working diligently under the guidance of our NERA President, Nina Deng, to ensure this year's conference is better than ever! We are excited to offer you meaningful educational research, along with opportunities to engage in stimulating dialogue with colleagues through conference sessions, social networking, and entertainment events. Throughout all of our planning, the health and safety of our members remains our top priority. Based on the most recent CDC guidelines, the NERA board had voted in favor of an in-person conference in Trumbull Marriott Shelton Hotel in Trumbull, CT. We will maintain protocols according to the most recent health guidelines to ensure a comfortable and safe conference for everyone. Below are some of the exciting speakers and featured sessions for this year's conference:

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Wednesday, October 19—Darrell Earnest, Associate Professor of Math, Science, & Learning Technologies at the College of Education, University of Massachusetts Amherst

Thursday, October 20—Christina Cipriano, Assistant Professor at Yale Child Study Center and Director of Research at Yale Center for Emotional Intelligence, Yale School of Medicine, Yale University

INVITED PANELS:

Balanced System of Educational Assessments

Moderator: Duy Pham, ETS

Panelists:

- Kristen Huff, Vice-president of Assessment and Research, Curriculum Associates.
- Jade Caines Lee, Assistant Professor, University of Kansas.
- Paul Foster, Director of Learning Technology and Accountability, Springfield Public School District.
- Katie Bevan, School Teacher, MCAS Test Coordinator, Springfield Public School District.

Advancing Gender and Racial Equity in Educational Measurement: Barriers and Opportunities

Panelists (tentative)

- Jennifer Dunn, Chief Operating Officer
- Fiona Hinds, Chief Strategy Officer
- Other Leadership Members at Women in Measurement, Inc.

Presidential Panel consisting of a wide range of past NERA Presidents to talk about the past, present, and future of NERA!

INVITED SYMPOSIUM (Date TBD):

Interim Assessments and Learning Loss During COVID-19 (Curriculum Associates)

FEATURED WORKSHOPS (Dates TBD):

- Cognitive Diagnostic Modeling (Matthew Madison, University of Georgia)
- Self-Care and the Dissertation Journey (Michelle Gonzalez, Brightside Behavioral Health, Behavioral Health Clinician)
- Before the Loans come due: Finding *the* Job! (GSIC)

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

53rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE

October 19-21, 2022

Trumbull Marriott Shelton, Trumbull, Connecticut

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

Conference Theme: “Supporting Student Learning in a Dynamic Environment”

The COVID-19 pandemic has impacted instruction and student learning in so many ways. Across the globe, millions of students took classes from home or through a hybrid environment for an extended period. Research shows that there is significant unfinished learning compared to pre-pandemic averages. The field of education is hungry for research-based initiatives and solutions to support student learning and well-being in this dynamic educational environment.

When considering your proposal submission, there are eight broad content strands to choose from, demonstrating the broad application of the conference theme in the field of educational research. These are meant to be general descriptions of the topics that may fit into the specific content strands. Although we strongly encourage session proposals related to one or more of the areas expressed in the conference theme, this is not a requirement for submissions. The section below outlines each content strand in more detail.

Unfinished and Remote Learning Challenges: There are so many questions surrounding the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on student learning, and how remote, hybrid, and even in-person schooling has impacted students’ growth and achievement. Investigations by grade, race/ethnicity, subject, region, and other variables are critical. Proposals related to these questions that can shed light on the path forward for students and educators are welcomed.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion: The recent surge in advocacy for social justice reform presents an opportunity to educate ourselves on how we recognize, value, and respect differences in people and learners on many levels and could be based on personal characteristics (e.g., gender, race/ethnicity, age, religion, language, immigration status, disability, sexual orientation), geographic characteristics (e.g., states, regions), economic characteristics (e.g., household income), or institutional characteristics (e.g., R1, HBCU), among others. Submissions around applying best practices, particularly in test design and analysis, but more broadly in educational research, related to diversity, equity, and inclusion in this social context, including emerging data repositories related to civil rights and other relevant issues, are encouraged.

Measurement and Psychometrics: The ongoing expansion of the data science and AI movements, increases in computing power and programmer skills, and local, state, and federal data dashboards, repositories, and both analysis and visualization tools contribute greatly to enabling researchers to investigate a variety of issues related to education and educational measurement. Submissions are encouraged regarding applications of established analytic and psychometric methods (e.g., predictive modeling, quasi-experimental designs), programs (e.g., R, Mplus), databases (e.g., IPEDS, NCES surveys), and innovative approaches (e.g., data mining, machine learning, use of Python, use of AERA-ICPSR PEERS database).

Research Methods: Education research methodologies are far from being limited to those that are purely quantitative and/or emphasize educational measurement. Historically, the broader research community has welcomed and benefited from the contributions of those representing the qualitative, mixed methods, and evaluation disciplines. More recently, there has been a further expansion to include scholars from those in

cognitive science, neuroscience, industrial and organizational psychology, and economics. Together these perspectives allow for quality research regardless of the number of subjects being studied. Therefore, we encourage submissions focusing on nuanced methods for analyzing data and educational research issues.

Educational Policy Challenges: Challenges posed by the pandemic have persisted over the past two years. Such challenges include how social culture has been impacted by the digital divide, the re-opening of schools, assessment of student learning and accountability, and how the inherent impact on students, teachers, administrators, and parents cuts across geographic and demographic lines. Submissions are encouraged regarding current research into ongoing and future challenges on these topics and how existing or needed data collections might inform education policy.

P-12 Educators as Researchers: Educators offer a great deal to the research community through their work, especially when currently facing challenges, requiring flexibility and creativity to provide students with the best possible educational experience and opportunities for classroom learning, whether in-person, hybrid or virtual. On behalf of the Educator-as-Researcher Committee, this is an invitation for teacher researchers, practitioners, community members, school administrators, and education researchers to submit proposals on research projects that address issues such as equity and inclusion, culturally responsive teaching, deeper learning and rigor for all students, multi-tier systems for student support, social and emotional learning, instructional leadership, and inside- and outside-of-school learning.

Higher Education: Higher education has been transformed because of the pandemic and emerging questions about the value of and access to a postsecondary experience. This transformation has been reflected recently along social lines in the reconceptualization of campus life, along economic lines in how institutions may be struggling to stay afloat, and along instructional lines through distance learning. More prominently, there has been a substantive change with the massive increase in colleges and universities adopting test-optional policies and how this may affect the demographic profile of future incoming classes of undergraduate and graduate students. Proposals dealing with data related to the general student and institutional research in higher education, particularly concerning issues related to the pandemic, are encouraged.

Miscellaneous: While hopefully this year's theme greatly appeals to you, NERA has an honored tradition of welcoming submissions to the annual conference that may not necessarily relate to the primary topic but are relevant to the field and those attending the conference. Please be assured that submissions on miscellaneous topics will be evaluated on the same benchmarks as those under the other strands; these viewpoints can hopefully also be shared with the NERA conference community.

Submission Requirements

- Complete information for author(s) including affiliation(s)
- Descriptive title (maximum: 15 words)
- Three content strands
- Description of paper to appear in conference program (maximum: 50 words)
- Proposal, NOT including tables, figures, and references (maximum: 1,000 words)
- Your proposal should include study purpose, theoretical framework, methodology, research questions, results, conclusions, and educational implications

Warning: Proposals with more than 1,000 words will not be accepted.

Submission Review Process

- Proposals must be submitted electronically by Monday, June 6th, 2022, at 11:59 pm EDT.
- 2 to 3 NERA volunteers will conduct blind reviews of 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 the first author in mid-August. Details about session dates and times will follow once the program has been finalized.
- It is critical to meet the June 6th deadline to allow us time to have reviewers review each proposal, inform authors of proposal decisions, and finalize the program.

Session-Specific Guidelines – 2022 NERA Conference

When submitting your proposal, you will be asked to indicate which of the following session formats you prefer for your research. We encourage everyone to select more than one possible option, as selecting multiple options increases your likelihood of acceptance. Regardless of the session you choose, your paper will be subjected to rigorous peer review by NERA volunteers. As each format provides a medium for contributing your research to the field, all session formats are equally important. We hope to maintain a variety of sessions this year to maximize the educational experience for NERA conference attendees.

1. Individual Presentations

- a. Individual Paper:** Proposals should describe completed or nearly completed research to be presented in 10–15 minutes. Sessions will be organized into groups of 3–5 individual presentations according to similar research areas. In most paper sessions, a discussant will be assigned to read the set of papers in advance and present a 10–15-minute synthesis, critique, or analysis of the papers to spur discussion.
- b. Roundtable:** Roundtable sessions allow maximum interaction among presenters and attendees, emphasizing the discussion. Each table will have 3–5 researchers with accepted papers organized around shared interests. In addition, each session will have a designated chair knowledgeable in the research area to facilitate interaction and participation. When appropriate, a discussant will be assigned to a roundtable session as well.
- c. Individual Poster:** Poster proposals should describe a research project, either completed or nearly completed, that lends itself to a visual display and would benefit from informal individualized discussion and feedback. Like the individual paper presentations, each poster will have a discussant. Specific directions for the size of the poster will be posted on the NERA Conference website and are available in the FAQs in the next section.

2. Theme-Based Paper Session/Symposium

Proposals for this format should describe a set of 3–5 presentations organized around a common theme. In addition, the chair and discussant for this session format must be identified in the proposal. The format and procedure for these sessions are identical to the Individual Paper Presentation sessions.

Submission Format

At the time of submission, authors will be required to select from the list of content strands to categorize their proposal. The proposal submission form will be online and accessible on the NERA website starting April 18th, 2022. You can find the link to this proposal system here: [NERA 2022 Proposal System](#)

Call for conference volunteers and reviewers! NERA is a volunteer-based organization. We need your help to ensure a high-quality conference in October.

[Volunteer to be a proposal reviewer](#)

[Volunteer to be a session chair or discussant](#)

If you have any questions, please contact the conference chairs at NERA.CoChairs@gmail.com

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CALL FOR PROPOSALS FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Does my research project have to be complete to be accepted to NERA? Not necessarily. In-progress or nearly completed research will be considered for the conference, but the researcher should show the potential of the work being ready for presentation by the conference date. We strongly encourage individuals to submit their in-progress work as Roundtable presentations. This format facilitates greater discussion between participants and the audience, allowing you to receive input and feedback that could inform your research or help to overcome potential hurdles.

How are the content areas used? These terms are used in several ways. Specifically, they will be used to match the proposal to the appropriate reviewers, place the proposal in the session where it fits best, and assign an appropriate discussant to the session. Therefore, please select the content area best matches your proposal as your first choice and two additional content areas as the next-best options.

How do the content areas differ from keywords used in previous years? The content areas were developed by combining one or more keywords into a more general theme. This table illustrates:

Content Area	Keywords
Educational Policy Challenges	Accountability; Policy in Education; School Reform; and Politics
Measurement and Psychometrics	Psychometrics; Educational Measurement; Quantitative Methods & Statistical Theory
Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion	Social Context in Education; Diverse Learners; Test Design & Development; Use & Interpretation of Results
Higher Education	Postsecondary Education
Unfinished and Remote Learning Challenges	None—New Area for 2022
Research Methods	Qualitative & Mixed Methods; Program Evaluation; Cognitive Science; Noncognitive/Behavioral Skills; Research Methodology
P-12 Educators as Researchers	Computer & Educational Technology; Educational Leadership; Curriculum & Instruction; Early Childhood Education; Teaching & Teacher Education; Education & Psychology; Career & Technical Education
Miscellaneous	None

What is the review process like? Reviewers are NERA member volunteers self-identified as willing to review proposals on the particular content area(s). The conference co-chairs make final decisions on acceptance and format based on both the reviews and availability in the conference program.



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When will my research paper need to be ready? Discussants must be able to review research papers before the session to prepare properly for discussion. Therefore, you will be asked to email your completed research paper to the discussant no later than September 30, 2022.

Will a projector and laptop be available for my session? Institutional sponsors will be supplying LCD projectors for each session. In addition, the Chair of the session will arrange to have a laptop present and facilitate file transfers to the laptop via email before the session. Presenters are expected to cooperate with Chair requests.

What if NERA accepts my presentation, but I cannot attend NERA when the time comes? Submitting to NERA signifies that you intend to attend the conference if your presentation is accepted. However, if something prevents you from being able to present and co-authors or colleagues cannot present in your place, please withdraw your presentation *before* the session by contacting the Conference Team at NERA.CoChairs@gmail.com.

What size should my poster be? Easels with foam display boards will be available for poster presentations. The poster size should be no larger than 36 inches x 48 inches. The display should be easily readable and clear from at least three feet from the board. The title, author, and affiliation should be 36-point font or larger. The rest of your lettering should be in at least a 28-point font. Include diagrams, figures, photos, bulleted text, or other visuals that describe your research. Presenters should also prepare four PowerPoint slides (maximum), which will be shared electronically prior to the poster session to give attendees a short preview/overview of each study. More information regarding posters will be posted on the NERA website.

You have several session options for submitting proposals. Are any considered more rigorous than others? No. All formats are peer-reviewed methods for disseminating your research. The rigor of the peer review process is the same for all proposals submitted to the conference. Peer review allows NERA to maintain an appropriate level of quality for the experience of those presenting their research and those receiving the research.

What are the submission parameters for theme-based paper sessions/symposia? Those presenting proposals for theme-based paper sessions or symposia must submit only one proposal for all papers in the session, within a maximum of 1,000 words. In addition, the submission should include a description of how the papers are related and a short description of each paper included in the session. Lastly, proposers can indicate within the submission that they are submitting a theme-based paper session/symposium.

What is the role of the Chair? The role of the Chair is to facilitate the organization of the presentation session. Duties may include collecting the papers, communicating with authors, managing audio/visual equipment, and ensuring the timeliness of the session. In some cases, the Chair will facilitate discussion among the audience members and authors.

What is the role of the Discussant? Discussants are responsible for drawing from their expertise to comment on papers and presentations. The goal is to provide professional and constructive criticism and raise issues for broader consideration that connect to the works.

How do Roundtable sessions work? Roundtable sessions offer the most opportunity for interactions among presenters and participants. Three to five researchers with similar interests are assigned to a table, along with a moderator with some expertise in the topic area. Individual researchers do not make a formal presentation as in a paper session but may provide a brief overview of their work and specific issues that they would like to discuss. During a roundtable session, much of the time should be devoted to discussion among the assigned researchers and the other participants.

Where will I find information about the conference registration fees? Registration fees will be posted on the NERA website during the latter half of spring; there are three cost brackets: Professional, Retirees, and Students. All registrants must also be NERA members. Late fees are instituted after October 1, 2022. More information about membership and dues can be found on the NERA website (www.nera-education.org).

Is there a special room rate at the conference hotel? Yes, NERA negotiates a special room rate at the conference hotel for members each year. Room rates and information on registering will be posted on the NERA website during the latter half of spring. There is a limited number of rooms available at the negotiated room rate each year. More information about registering for both the conference and a hotel room will be available on the NERA website (www.nera-education.org).

Are meals included with registration? Yes, NERA is pleased to provide meals with conference registration regardless of whether members stay at the conference hotel. Meals will be provided following public health and safety guidelines at that time. Please reach out to the NERA co-chairs about any dietary concerns or restrictions you may have at NERA.CoChairs@gmail.com.

How will I submit my NERA proposal? Please make your submission by accessing the [Online Proposal System](#). The proposal system will be available beginning Monday, April 18, 2022. The deadline for submission is Monday, June 6, 2022, at 11:59 PM EDT. You may contact the conference co-chairs with further questions at NERA.CoChairs@gmail.com.



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THE GRADUATE LOUNGE

Yay for Spring!

It will not be long until we gather in Trumbull for our annual conference! I am so looking forward to spending time reconnecting with colleagues, attending informative conference sessions, and cultivating new friendships!

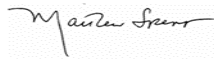
The Graduate Student Issues Committee [GSIC] is pleased to welcome Rachel Satter and Anthony Vinci as committee members. Rachel is a doctoral candidate at the University of Bridgeport, and Anthony is a doctoral candidate at Central Connecticut State University. Both Rachel and Anthony are interested in providing NERA graduate students with support and community during the dissertation journey. Thank you for your willingness to serve on the GSIC.

We had a great response to the call for submissions for the GSIC Best Paper award; we look forward to sharing the award winner. Thank you to all who submitted papers.

The GSIC will be hosting two sessions at the NERA conference, which will address issues faced in the dissertation journey and considerations to make the post-doc job search manageable. In addition, the sessions will provide practical strategies to assist graduate students in navigating the physical and emotional sides of earning a doctorate before and after degree conferral. More information about the GSIC sessions will be available as the Conference draws near.

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

neragraduatestudents@gmail.com



ENDICOTT

COLLEGE

CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE NERA BOARD

Steven Holtzman, Past-President, Educational Testing Service

NERA's success is truly a result of volunteers like you! Our organization simply cannot run without the time and effort contributed by so many wonderful people. The Board of Directors includes several positions determined by our annual election. 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 (two positions, each for a 3-year term)

These positions are described in the NERA Handbook, available [here](#).

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 2022 election. Please send your nominations for President and Board Members to the Nominations Committee at nominationscommittee@nera-education.org by **June 30, 2022**. Note that all nominees must be current members of NERA.

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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 Leo Doherty brought to NERA members, colleagues, and students throughout 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.

Nomination letters should be sent as an email attachment to Sara Finney at finneysj@jmu.edu no later than June 30, 2022. 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.

For information, please check out <https://www.nera-education.org/>

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EDUCATOR-AS-RESEARCHER AWARD APPLICATION

53rd ANNUAL CONFERENCE, October 2022, Trumbull, CT

Name of Applicant: _____

Affiliation of Applicant: _____

Position of Applicant: _____

Mailing Address of Applicant: _____

(after June 1, 2021) Phone _____ E-mail: _____

Signature of Applicant: _____ Date: _____

Attach information regarding your submission 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 the 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 the educator's practices that occurred or will occur because of the project, e. Bibliography of relevant references related to the research, and f. Any other information seen as relevant by the nominee
4. Significance of the 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. Salika Lawrence, Chair,
Educator-as-Researcher Award Committee (lawrencs@tcnj.edu) no later than June 1, 2022.

MEMBERSHIP ADVOCACY COMMITTEE UPDATE

Hello NERA Members!

In Nina Deng's President's Message in the Winter Issue, you may have seen a new committee being launched this year—the Member Advocacy Committee. The charge of this committee is to advocate for all the types of diversity that NERA members represent, with a focus on making NERA members feel included in every aspect of the association. NERA is for everyone, and this committee will help create a safe space that reflects our many layers of diversity. I am honored to be serving as the Chair of this committee in its inaugural year. I am currently working on populating the committee; by summertime, I anticipate having a fully assembled committee and kicking off our work to serve NERA. If you, or any NERA members you know of, may be interested in joining the group, please reach out to me. Additionally, if you are aware of any issues, you would like this committee to consider, I invite you to share.

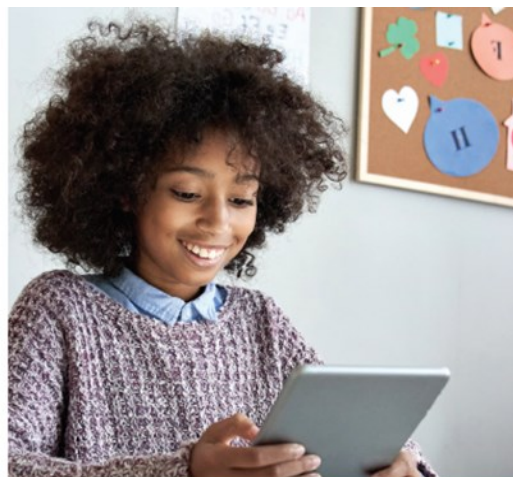
Looking forward to seeing you this fall!

Pamela Kaliski, Chair, ABIM



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**CALL FOR NOMINATIONS FOR THE 2022
THOMAS F. DONLON MEMORIAL AWARD
FOR DISTINGUISHED MENTORING**
Catherine O'Callaghan, Chair
Western Connecticut State University

NERA established the Thomas F. Donlon Memorial Award for Distinguished Mentoring in 2000, recognizing 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 distinguished themselves as mentors of colleagues by guiding them and helping them find productive paths toward developing their careers as educational researchers.

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. We are seeking nominations again this year for this annual award. Nominees must be NERA members and any NERA member may nominate someone who served them as a mentor.

If you would like to see a member of NERA who was your mentor recognized for their contributions to your success, send your nomination to Dr. Catherine O'Callaghan by email at ocallaghanc@wcsu.edu by June 30, 2022. In addition to the nomination letter, all nominations must be accompanied by at least three letters of support indicating how the nominee distinguished themselves as a mentor. Up to five separate letters of support can be sent for each nominee. The award will be presented at the 2022 NERA conference. Please contact Catherine if you have any questions about the Donlon Award or the nomination process.

MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE UPDATE

With the merging of our standard Membership Committee and the previous year's Underrepresented Groups subcommittee, this year's Membership Committee consists of both returning members and several new members. In 2022, the full force of the Membership Committee includes:

- Briana Chang, Research Scientist, College Board
- Marcy Delcourt, Professor, Western Connecticut State University
- Rebecca Natow, Assistant Professor, Hofstra University
- Charles Ogundimu, Adjunct Associate Professor, Pace University
- Amber O'Shea, Assistant Professor, Pennsylvania State University
- Michael Saxton, Associate Faculty, Post University
- Michael Wolter, Assistant Registrar & Associate Faculty Lead, Post University
- Rory Lazowski (Chair), Research Scientist, College Board

This year, the Membership Committee's primary objective is to expand membership at NERA. Given that the annual conference will be in-person this year, we have focused our recruitment efforts primarily on those states in the northeast region. We have targeted this region in previous years, so this year we have an opportunity to expand the colleges and universities within this region for our outreach efforts. In addition, we plan to provide outreach to other schools and organizations we have not targeted in years past, such as community colleges and professional organizations aligned to a variety of issues.

We are also engaged with the Infrastructure Committee to correct and update emails that have recently bounced back so that the list for NERA communication is as accurate as possible.

With our expanded committee, I am so excited this year to have different perspectives and fresh ideas to inform our work in the coming year!

Sincerely,
Rory Lazowski
Chair, Membership Committee

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 for a 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 fits 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!

Please feel free to reach out to the co-chairs at mentoring@nera-education.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!

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