



Mid-Western Educational Research Association

**39th Annual Meeting
Call for Proposals**

Proposal Deadline: May 27th, 2016

*Come and be a part of
MWERA in 2016!*

The 2016 Annual Meeting of the Mid-Western Educational Research Association (MWERA) will be held in Evanston, Illinois, with an exciting program of invited speakers, workshops, and peer-reviewed papers presented in a variety of session formats. The 2016 program will center on this year's theme:

Engaging Global Communities through Education, Research, Policy, & Practice.

The conference will feature dynamic speakers, workshops and networking opportunities for researchers, policy makers and practitioners. Teachers, administrators, and other school personnel are especially invited to come and share their school-based research and experiences at the 2016 MWERA conference.

The conference, based on the mission statement of MWERA, will look critically, optimistically and strategically at “**Engaging Global Communities through Education, Research, Policy, and Practice**” as the theme for the 2016 conference.

The focus of this year's annual conference is at the intersection of education research, policy and practice. This theme allows for thoughtful introspection into the field of educational research with an emphasis on current, tangible policy issues and the successes and concerns in the field of practice of education.

The MWERA annual meeting has long been an opportunity to facilitate the engagement between these critical groups, and this year's theme offers a concerted effort to facilitate

dialogue around common themes and practices that have and will emerge.

Researchers, policy makers and practitioners alike will benefit from the opportunity to hear cutting edge topical and methodological research in a variety of sectors of education.

MWERA would encourage submissions from a range of intellectual, practical and activist perspectives for a meaningful dialogue and dissemination of high quality research. The various themes unifying the educational discipline would provide insights into theory, practice, methodology or fieldwork on contemporary research practices.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION
Proposal Submission Deadline: May 27, 2016
Notification of Acceptance/Rejection:
Proposals will be reviewed as soon as they are submitted and notification will be sent on a rolling basis by **July 31, 2016.**
Early Bird Registration: September 25, 2016
Hotel Reservation: September 25, 2016
Upload Full Papers: October 13, 2016

Conference Contact Information
Dr. Kate Akers, Program Chair
Email: mwera2016@gmail.com

Hotel Accommodations

We will be meeting at the Hilton Orrington Hotel in Evanston (www.hotelorrington.com). The hotel offers charming guest rooms, excellent meeting facilities, wireless Internet access, and readily available access from both O'Hare and Midway airports.

Nestled within the heart of the Northwestern University campus and the shores of beautiful Lake Michigan, the Hilton Orrington Hotel is located in the center of Evanston among an international assortment of quality restaurants, lively nightspots, and unique specialty shops. Downtown Chicago is only minutes away, via public transportation or other means of travel, and is home to world-class theaters, concert halls, great restaurants, shopping, tourist attractions, and fun nightlife!

General Information

The 2016 MWERA Annual Meeting will be held **Wednesday, October 26 through Saturday, October 29** at the Hilton Orrington Hotel in Evanston, Illinois. This year's theme is **"Engaging Global Communities through Education, Research, Policy, and Practice."** The 2016 MWERA conference will bring together various entities within the field of education, such as personnel from P-12; higher education; students; communities; and educational organizations, to discuss and reflect upon the theme.

If you are looking for a place to sit down and chat with colleagues from schools and universities about your ideas and perspectives, the Mid-Western Educational Research Association provides that opportunity with its supportive and collaborative environment. Both new and veteran educational researchers, practitioners, and students from across North America return annually to MWERA to renew acquaintances, make new contacts, and engage in exciting conversation in a collegial atmosphere.

A few general theme-related domains with more specific theme-related topics are presented. This list by no means is intended to be exhaustive or exclusive. It merely provides suggestions. We support the creativity of our membership and welcome submissions for other theme-related proposals. We also welcome proposals that address other areas in education that may or may not relate to the theme of the conference.

MISSION

- 1) To disseminate educational research conducted in the central states & provinces of North America.
- 2) To promote a collegial research culture in the region.
- 3) To provide a forum for mentoring the research skills of graduate students & junior faculty members.

1) The role of education research in shaping current education policy.

- *Applications of education research already realized in current education policy.
- *Current and future roles of education research in past & future education policy research.

2) Examining impact of education research on K-12, postsecondary education & teacher preparation programs.

- *Utilization of innovative education research in practice.
- *Examining successful & challenging partnerships between the research community & practice.

3) Facilitating dialogue between researchers, policy makers & practitioners.

- *Building a robust research agenda.
- *Real life examples of key collaborations that move the field of education forward.
- *Overcoming challenges in collaborating across and within sectors

Distinguished Paper

One distinguished paper is selected each year to represent MWERA at the State and Regional Education Research Association (SRERA) special interest group of the American Educational Research Association (AERA). The distinguished paper is automatically accepted for presentation at AERA and is supported by a \$150 stipend for registration costs. Only *complete* manuscripts uploaded to the MWERA online conference management system will be considered. This paper will also be eligible for publication in *MWER*, depend on the results of the peer review process. More information is available at <http://www.mwera.org/MWER/>.

Attendance at the Meeting

The 2016 conference program will consist primarily of presentations selected through a blind peer-review process. In addition, there will be invited speakers and symposia; faculty, and new members; as well as a luncheon and other social events open to all attendees.

All sessions listed in the conference program will be open to anyone who has registered for the annual meeting; however, enrollment may be limited for some workshop sessions and business meetings that are intended for members. Tickets for the Friday luncheon and speaker are available to all pre-registrants *but ticket availability is not guaranteed for late or on-site registrants.*

Membership and conference registration materials for the October 2016 annual meeting will soon be available on the MWERA website and can be obtained by contacting the program chair at mwera2016@gmail.com

Ways to Participate

To participate in the MWERA 2016 Annual Meeting, *all presenters MUST be members in good standing* with MWERA (that is, non-members must join MWERA as soon as they are notified that their proposal was accepted).

Division chairs are also seeking MWERA members to serve as **proposal reviewers**, **session chairs**, and **session discussants**. Please contact a division chair or the program chair if you are willing to serve. Finally, you can participate simply by **attending the conference** and **encouraging** colleagues and students to participate in any way (share this *call for proposals* with others). All forms of participation are necessary to ensure a successful annual meeting!

Questions about proposals, the electronic submission process, or the meeting in general should be directed to the Program Chair, Dr. Kate Akers.

Guidelines for Submitting Proposals

While it is desirable for proposals to address the theme of the annual meeting, it is **NOT** required. Proposals **MUST** be submitted electronically using the submission process available through the meeting website (proposals may **NOT** be mailed or emailed to the program chair or to division chairs). Specific instructions for submission can be found at the MWERA website: www.mwera.org.

Deadline for Proposal Submission

All proposals that are submitted by **midnight EST on May 27, 2016**, are guaranteed to be reviewed. Please inform your division chairs if you plan to submit one or more proposals to a division. If you are unable to upload by May 27, 2016, you may contact your division chair (no later than June 1). Completed submissions will be forwarded to division chairs, who will coordinate a number of volunteers in a system of blind review of proposals (i.e., proposals should be submitted without author identification).

Criteria for Proposal Review

Appropriate criteria, depending on the format and type of scholarly work being presented, have been developed and are used for the blind review process. These criteria include:

- (a) topic (originality, choice of problem, importance);
- (b) relevance of the topic to the division and to MWERA membership (it does not have to address the theme of the conference);
- (c) contribution to research and education;
- (d) framework theoretical/conceptual/practical rationale, literature review, grounding);
- (e) analyses and interpretations (significance, implications, relationship of conclusions to findings, generalizability, or usefulness); and
- (f) overall written proposal quality (clarity of writing, logic, and organization).
- (g) current status of results

Papers presented at MWERA are expected to present **original scholarship** conducted by the author(s) that has not previously been presented at any other meeting or published in any journal. Further, it is a violation of MWERA policy to promote commercially available products or services (except as exhibits) that go beyond the limits of appropriate scholarly or scientific communication.

Individuals who wish to display educationally related products or services should contact the program chair.

Expectations of Presenters

All persons, including graduate students, presenting at the 2016 Annual Meeting are expected to be **members in good standing** and **to register for the full meeting**.

Presenters whose papers have been accepted to a session with a session chair and/or session discussant are **expected to upload** a completed version of their conference paper through the MWERA website **no later than October 13, 2016**. Papers not uploaded to the website by this date may be dropped from the program. Presenters should provide copies of their papers in either paper or electronic form to attendees at their sessions. LCD projectors and screens will be provided by MWERA in presentation rooms. Presenters needing additional computer or audio-visual equipment must make their own arrangements for such equipment (rental from the hotel may be possible at the presenter's own expense).

MWERA reserves the right to reproduce and distribute summaries and abstracts of all accepted proposals, including making such works available in a printed program abstract, through the MWERA website, and in press releases promoting the annual meeting and the organization. *As a condition of acceptance, all authors of papers accepted to the 2016 annual meeting explicitly grant MWERA the right to reproduce their work's summary and/or abstract in these ways.* Such limited distribution does not preclude any subsequent publication of the work by the author(s).

Authors of accepted proposals assume the ethical and professional responsibility to appear at the Annual Meeting and to participate in their presentation or assigned session. When circumstances preclude the author(s) from doing so, it is the responsibility of the author(s) to arrange a suitable substitute and to notify the program chair in advance.



Content Required for Proposals

The **abstract** should be 100-150 words. The abstracts of accepted papers will be published in the *MWERA 2016 Annual Meeting Abstracts*, and may be available on the MWERA website. Use clear, precise language that can be understood by readers outside of your discipline. The recommended length of proposals is 2500 words.

Session Format Descriptions

The MWERA annual meeting allows for both *traditional* (paper, poster, research in progress) as well as *alternative* (symposiums, workshops, alternative sessions, and best practices forums).

Traditional Summary

Traditional summaries for **paper, poster** and **research in Progress** proposals should explicitly address as many of the following as appropriate, preferably in this order:

- (a) objectives, goals, or purposes;
- (b) perspectives and/or theoretical framework;
- (c) methods and/or techniques (data source, instruments, procedures);
- (d) results and conclusions;
- (e) educational and/or scientific importance of the work;
- (f) current status of the research (note, proposals without results should only be submitted as research in progress).

Paper Presentation

Paper sessions are intended to allow presenters the opportunity to make short, relatively formal presentations in which they summarize their papers to an audience. Three to five individual papers dealing with related topics are grouped into a single session running 1 hour 20 minutes. Each paper presentation is allowed approximately 15 minutes (depending on the number of presentations in a given session) to present the highlights of the paper. A session discussant is also allowed 10-15 minutes, following all papers, for comments, synthesis, and/or constructive feedback. A session chair moderates the entire session. Ideally, presenters should provide complete copies of their papers to all interested audience members or, if not feasible, should bring a one-page summary of the study highlights along with their contact information.

Poster Presentation

Poster sessions are intended to provide opportunities for interested individuals to participate in a dialogue with the presenter(s). Presenters are provided an area in which to display a tabletop poster, ancillary handouts, or other A/V materials. Ideally, presenters should provide complete copies of their papers to all interested audience members or, if not feasible, should bring a one-page summary of the study highlights along with their contact information. *Not ready to submit full results? See the research in progress submission.*

Research in Progress

Research in Progress affords individual researchers, particularly graduate students and early-career scholars, the opportunity to submit evidence based works that are not fully realized and/or completed, but have enough progression and fidelity to warrant dissemination and discussion among peers. For example, roundtable sessions on research in progress can be arranged to provide student-participants/ new scholars with an opportunity to receive comments on their research in progress for feedback to enhance its potential for publication or presentation at a professional conference.



Alternative Summary

Summaries for **symposium, workshop, alternative session, and best practices forum.**

Proposals should explicitly address as many of the following as appropriate, preferably in this order:

- (a) descriptive title;
 - (b) objectives, goals, and purpose;
 - (c) importance of the topic, issue, or problem;
 - (d) explanation of the basic format or structure of the session, with a brief rationale for the format;
 - (e) listing of the presenter(s), by number not name for blind review (e.g., "Presenter 1"), with an explanation of each person's relevant background and role in the session; and
 - (f) anticipated audience and kind of audience involvement.
- (g) limited program space may be available for these types of sessions.

Symposium

A symposium is intended to provide an opportunity for examination of specific problems from a variety of perspectives. Symposium organizers are expected to identify the topic or issue, identify and ensure the participation of individual speakers who will participate in the session, prepare any necessary materials, and facilitate the session. It is suggested, that the speakers or symposium organizer will provide interested individuals with one (or more) papers relevant to and/or drawn from the symposium.

Workshop

Workshops are intended to provide an extended period of time during which the workshop leader helps participants develop or improve their ability to perform some process (e.g., how to provide clinical supervision, using the latest features of the Internet, or conduct an advanced statistical analysis).

Organizers may request from 1½ to 3 hours, and are responsible for providing all necessary materials for participants. Most workshops are scheduled for Wednesday afternoon, although others may be scheduled throughout the conference.

Best Practices Forum

The best practices forum provide opportunities for individuals or groups to present "best" or "promising" practices impacting both K-12 and higher education. These sessions highlight unique and innovative programs that have demonstrated promise for improving and enhancing educational practice. Presenters will be grouped by similar topics to facilitate discussion among the groups and audience.

Panel Presentation

Panel presentations would be a group of presenters (3 to 5) that have been organized by a session chair (or collaboration of teachers and students) around a theme of their choice. Panels would be more flexible than paper sessions. The panelists could discuss a topic as a group with active engagement from the audience rather than giving individual presentations.



Publication Opportunities

MWERA's journal, the *Midwestern Educational Researcher* (*MWER*), has published the featured and keynote speakers' contributions to annual conferences, and now publishes the distinguished paper selected to represent MWERA at AERA. *MWER* is interested in all conference papers with good potential for publication. *MWER* editors will review all *complete* papers uploaded to the MWERA online conference management system (proposals and incomplete papers are not considered) and will contract authors regarding interest in the peer-review process and potential publication in *MWER*. Authors may also submit their manuscripts to *MWER* through the regular submission process at any time. Contact Debra Miretzky or Sharon Stevens at mwera1316@gmail.com.

Division Leadership Contact Information

A - Administration, Organization, & Leadership

This division is concerned with research, theory, development, and the improvement of practice in the organization and administration of education.

Division Chairs:

Daniel Quinn
Oakland University
djquinn@oakland.edu

Rashmi Sharma
Ohio University
rs371709@ohio.edu

B - Curriculum Studies

This division is concerned with curriculum and instructional practice, theory, and research.

Division Chairs:

Nan Li
Miami University
lin2@miamioh.edu

Qiuting Zhou
Miami University
zhouq6@miamioh.edu

C - Learning & Instruction

This division is concerned with theory and research on human abilities, learning styles, individual differences, problem solving, and other cognitive factors.

Division Chair:

Joe Schroer
Miami University
schroerje@miamioh.edu

D - Measurement & Research Methodology

This division is concerned with measurement, statistical methods, as well as both quantitative and qualitative research methods, as applied to educational research.

Division Chairs:

Yiyuan Zhang,
Miami University
zhangy51@miamioh.edu

Ting Li,
University of Toledo
ting.li@utoledo.edu

E - Counseling & Human Development

This division is concerned with the understanding of human development, special education, and the application and improvement of counseling theories, techniques, and training strategies.

Division Chairs:

Yue Wang
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wangy56@miamioh.edu

Yiyuan Zhang
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zhangy51@miamioh.edu

Qiuting Zhou
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zhouq6@miamioh.edu

F - History & Historiography

This division is concerned with the findings and methodologies of historical research in education.

Division Chairs:

Yue Wang
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wangy56@miamioh.edu

Yanling Yang
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yangy33@miamioh.edu

G - Social Context of Education

This division is concerned with theory, practice, and research on social, moral, affective, and motivational characteristics and development, especially multicultural perspectives.

Division Chairs:

Jinghua Zhang
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zhangj27@miamioh.edu

Yue Wang
Miami University
wangy56@miamioh.edu

H - Research, Evaluation, & Assessment in Schools

This division is concerned with research and evaluation to improve school practice, including program planning and implementation.

Division Chairs:

Hans Muehsler
Naperville Central High School
muehsler@gmail.com

Spencer Pasero
Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory
spasero@fnal.gov

I - Education in the Professions

This division is concerned with educational practice, research, and evaluation in the professions (e.g., medicine, nursing, public health, business, law, and engineering).

Division Chair:

Yanling Yang
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yangy33@miamioh.edu

J - Postsecondary Education

This division is concerned with a broad range of issues related to two-year, four-year, and graduate education.

Division Chairs:

Eric Mansfield
Western Illinois University
EA-Mansfield@wiu.edu

Gary Daytner
Western Illinois University
GT-Daytner@wiu.edu

K - Teaching & Teacher Education

This division is concerned with theory, practice, and research related to teaching at all levels and in-service and pre-service teacher education, including field experience supervision and mentoring.

Division Chairs:

Nicole V. Williams
The University of Findlay
williamsn1@findlay.edu

John C Gillham
The University of Findlay
gillham@findlay.edu

L – Educational Policy & Politics

This division is concerned with educational policy as well as political, legal, and fiscal matters related to education.

Division Chairs:

Xiaoxue Tang
Miami University
tangx3@miamioh.edu

Beibei Wu
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wub7@miamioh.edu

Nathalie Stec
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stecn@miamioh.edu