

Mid-Western Educational Research Association

Hyatt Regency | Milwaukee, Wisconsin
48th Annual Meeting | October 28-30, 2026



Call for Submissions

Submission Deadline: **11:59 p.m. on May 15, 2026**



The 2026 Annual Meeting of the Mid-Western Educational Research Association (MWERA) will be held at the beautiful Hyatt Regency in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This will be our second year at this scenic, stylish, well-situated conference location. The hotel will provide spacious and well-equipped meeting facilities and plenty of common spaces for networking with fellow MWERA members. It is an excellent location in downtown Milwaukee, within walking distance of restaurants, shopping, and a multitude of visitor sites.

We invite all scholars, professionals, students, practitioners, and administrators to join us in a friendly and collegial atmosphere as we discuss the issues and problems important to us as educational professionals. There will be opportunities to learn, reflect, make new connections, and renew old acquaintances. Prepare to be energized by attending MWERA!

2026 Conference Theme

Transforming Education Systems: Research and Policy for Responsive and Sustainable Change

This year's theme focuses on the transformation of education systems amid shifting social, academic, and technological landscapes at international, federal, state, and local levels. As educators, scholars, and policy makers confront complex challenges, ranging from equitable access, technological advances, and accountability, the need for responsive and sustainable approaches to educational change have never been greater. Transformation in education systems requires rethinking existing structures, practices, and policies and creating adaptable systems that are inclusive and resilient to best support student and educator needs.

The 2026 MWERA Annual Conference invites attendees to engage in discussions and debates about how research and policies can positively and sustainably influence teaching and learning across all levels of education. As with all MWERA annual meetings, **proposals need not address the conference theme**. We encourage broad participation from all areas of educational research.

General Information

The MWERA Annual Conference primarily consists of presentations selected through a blind peer-review process. In addition, it features invited speakers, symposia, panel discussions, special sessions for graduate students, new faculty, and new members, a keynote luncheon, and other social events open to all attendees.

Whether or not you plan to submit a paper to present, attending the annual conferences will enhance your professional development and offer leadership opportunities by becoming more involved with the MWERA organization.

Anyone registered for the annual meeting is welcome to attend all sessions in the conference program. Plan to attend as many sessions as possible. MWERA is a conference well known for its members' active participation in sessions, asking questions, and offering expert feedback.

Please share this call for submissions with your colleagues and students. MWERA is a friendly atmosphere for graduate students and new faculty.

Membership and Registration

All attendees and presenters must register and join the association. **Membership and conference registration for the annual meeting can be purchased at <https://mwera.square.site/>.** The program committee can be contacted at mweraconference@gmail.com. For specific questions about membership or registration, you can contact the executive director at mwera.ed@gmail.com.

Guidelines for Submissions

Submissions must be submitted electronically using the submission process available through the meeting website. <http://www.mwera.org>

Although MWERA membership is not required to submit a paper, all presenters must be members to present at the conference. To promote broader participation in the program, no one person should appear as a presenter on more than three submissions.

Papers presented at MWERA are expected to be **original scholarship** conducted by the author(s) that has yet to be presented at any other meeting or published in any journal.

Promoting commercially available products or services beyond appropriate scholarly or scientific communication violates MWERA policy. Individuals who wish to have an exhibit to display educationally related products or services should contact the program committee.

Deadline for Submissions

Submissions must be submitted by **11:59 pm on May 15, 2026**. All submissions received by this deadline are guaranteed to be reviewed. Please inform your division chairs if you plan to submit multiple papers to a single division.

Criteria for Submission Review

MWERA uses a **blind review process**. Submissions must be received without author identification. Submissions will be reviewed using the following criteria:

- A. Importance and originality of the research topic.
- B. Relevance of the topic to the Division and to MWERA membership. Relevance to the conference theme is encouraged by not required.
- 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).
- F. Overall writing quality of submission (clarity of writing, logic, and organization).

Content Required for All Submissions

Submissions must include an abstract and summary that follow the guidelines below. If you have questions or concerns, contact your division chair. The following pages define session types.

1. Abstract: Papers, Posters, & All Other Sessions

The abstract should be 100-150 words.

2. Summary: Papers and Posters

Submission summaries should be **approximately 2,500 words or less**. Summaries for **paper, poster, and research in progress** submission 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; and
- e. educational and/or scientific importance of the work.

Summary: Symposiums/Panels and Workshops. Submission summaries should explicitly address as many of the following as appropriate, preferably in this order:

- a. descriptive title (must include "Workshop" if submitting Workshop);
- b. objectives, goals, and purposes;
- 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 audience involvement. Limited program space may be available for these types of sessions.

Expectations of Presenters

All persons, including graduate students, presenting and participating at the annual meeting are expected to be **members in good standing** and to **pre-register for the conference**. Presenters whose papers have been accepted to a session with a session chair *must upload a completed version of their conference paper* through the MWERA conference website *by October 15, 2026*. Papers not uploaded by this date may be dropped from the program. Presenters might provide some form of handout to session attendees and a way for attendees to access the full paper. Presenters should also attend sessions to demonstrate good-faith collegiality and professional courtesy.

Authors of accepted submissions 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 division chairs in advance.

MWERA will provide projectors and screens in presentation rooms. **Presenters needing additional computer or audiovisual equipment (e.g., speakers or videoconferencing technology) must make their own arrangements.** Please remember to bring the appropriate adapter/dongle for your computer.

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

Session Descriptors and Format Descriptions

Use the approved MWERA descriptors when completing your submissions. These descriptors are located on the "Annual Meeting" tab of the MWERA website (<http://www.mwera.org/>) and as part of the submission process.

Paper Presentation

Paper sessions allow presenters to make short, relatively formal presentations in which they summarize their completed research to an audience. Three to five papers on related topics are grouped into a 1-hour, 10-minute session. Each paper presentation is allowed approximately 10 to 15 minutes (depending on the number of presentations in a given session) to present the highlights of the paper. A session chair monitors pacing of presentations, allowing time for comments, synthesis, and constructive feedback. Presenters are encouraged to provide some form of handout to session attendees and a way for attendees to access the full paper.

NOTE: If you do not have complete results or conclusions for your research, you must submit a Research in Progress paper indicating that your data analysis is in progress.

Research in Progress

Research in progress allows individual researchers, particularly graduate students and early-career scholars, to submit evidence-based works that still need to be fully realized or completed but have enough progression and fidelity to warrant dissemination and discussion among peers. Research in Progress proposals must include “Research in Progress” in the title. Research in progress sessions provide presenter feedback on their research to enhance its potential for publication.

Poster

Poster sessions are intended to provide opportunities for interested individuals to dialogue with the presenter(s) about their completed research. Presenters are provided an area to display a poster, ancillary handouts, and/or other table-top A/V materials. Interested individuals can move around these poster presentations as they wish. Presenters are encouraged to provide some form of handout to session attendees and a way for attendees to access the full paper. Poster submissions must include “Poster” in their submission title.

Symposium/Panel Presentation

A symposium/panel is intended to provide an opportunity to examine specific problems or topics from a variety of perspectives using research-based evidence. Organizers are expected to identify the topic or issue, locate the individual speakers who will participate, prepare any necessary materials, and facilitate the session. Submissions must include “Symposium or Panel Presentation” in their submission title. It is suggested, though optional, that the speakers or the organizer provide interested individuals with one (or more) papers relevant to, reflective of, or drawn from the symposium or panel.

Workshop

The form, topics, and format of workshops are limited only by the imagination and creativity of the organizer. These options are intended to afford the most effective method or approach to disseminating empirical evidence or scholarly work of various types. Submissions for workshops must include a brief rationale for the proposed alternative and must include “Workshop” in the title. They will be evaluated on their appropriateness to the topic and audience, their ability to meet the limitations of time, space, and expense for MWERA, and the essential quality or value of the topic. The organizer is responsible for all major participants or speakers, developing and providing any necessary materials, and chairing the session.

Submission Reviewers and Session Chairs

Reviewers and chairs play essential roles in the success of the annual conference. Please consider volunteering on the conference website. Anyone can volunteer to review submissions, regardless of membership status or intentions to attend the conference. Session chairs facilitate the paper sessions during the event and may choose to continue a discussion linking session papers. Individuals in these roles must be MWERA members and register for the conference.

MWERA Isadore Newman Dissertation Award

Named for a past MWERA president, mentor, and contributor, this travel award is intended to encourage and recognize outstanding dissertation research appropriate to the field. Studies embracing traditional and non-traditional conceptualizations and methods are welcome. Dissertations completed

and successfully defended in the last three years prior to the 2026 Convention (2024-2026) are eligible for consideration. Submissions for this award should be sent to mwera.ed@gmail.com and are due on the date of all other conference proposal submissions. The full dissertation and proof of successful completion are required. For more information, please visit the MWERA awards page (<https://www.mwera.org/awards.html>).

MWERA Distinguished Paper Award

Each year, the State and Regional Educational Research Association (SRERA) special interest group of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) invites its member state and regional affiliates to present one distinguished paper at the annual spring AERA meeting. These papers are automatically accepted for presentation and do not undergo additional review. MWERA will recognize one overall distinguished paper to submit for presentation at the next AERA Annual Meeting. The award recipient is expected to present the paper at AERA and receive a \$350 stipend to defray the registration cost. To be considered for this award, presenters must upload a full paper to the conference web portal before the MWERA conference.

Publication Opportunities

The Mid-Western Educational Researcher (MWER) is a peer-reviewed, open-access scholarly journal that publishes research articles examining educational issues and practices, book and media reviews, commentaries, and articles that address areas such as mentorship and teacher research. It began publication in 1988 and moved to an online format in 2012 (ISSN 2375-7876).

MWER seeks strong manuscripts addressing a wide range of topics in education. The journal publishes quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, meta-analysis and meta-synthesis studies. MWER accepts submissions in six different categories: feature articles, graduate student scholarship, voices from the classroom, commentaries, book/media reviews, and mentoring corner. The journal also periodically solicits proposals for special issues and special sections of an issue. In addition, such proposals can be submitted any time, regardless of whether there is an open call. See the journal's [Aims and Scope](#) for more detailed information. For questions, contact the MWER Editors at MWER1922@gmail.com.

Important Dates

Submission Deadline:	May 15, 2026	Upload full papers by:	October 15, 2026
Notification of Decision:	August 1, 2026	Registration Cut-off:	October 25, 2026
Early Bird Registration Ends:	September 25, 2026	MWERA Annual Meeting:	October 28-30, 2026

Division Chair Contact Information

Questions about submissions, the process, or the meeting in general should be directed to the division chairs. Their contact information is below.

A – Administration, Organization, and Leadership

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

Nathan Schilling
Concordia University - Chicago
Nathan.schilling@cuchicago.edu

Co-Chair: Gig Supanichrattana
Illinois State University
tsupani@ilstu.edu

B – Curriculum Studies

This division concerns curriculum and instructional practice, theory, and research.

Joe Elliott
Elmhurst University
joseph.elliott@elmhurst.edu

Co-Chair: Christy Horner
Bowling Green State University
cgallet@bgsu.edu

C – Learning & Instruction

This division concerns theory and research on human abilities, learning styles, individual differences, problem-solving, and other factors.

Sherri Horner
Bowling Green State University
shorner@bgsu.edu

Co-Chair: Amy Kochendoerfer
University of Findlay
amy.kochendoerfer@findlay.edu

D – Measurement & Research Methodology

This division is concerned with measurement, statistical methods, and quantitative and qualitative research methods as they are applied to education.

Nina Adjanin
Northwest Missouri State University
adanin@nwmissouri.edu

Co-Chair: Ximena Burgin
Northern Illinois University
xrecald1@niu.edu

E – Counseling & Human Development

This division is concerned with understanding human development, special education, and applying and improving counseling theories, techniques, and training strategies.

Eric Dimmitt
Marquette University
eric.dimmitt@marquette.edu

F – History & Historiography

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

James Alverson
Northern Kentucky University
alversonj1@nku.com

Co-Chair: Leanne Kang
Grand Valley State University
kangl@gvsu.edu

G – Social Context of Education

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

Joe Elliott
Elmhurst University
joseph.elliott@elmhurst.edu

Co-Chair: Christy Horner
Bowling Green State University
cgallet@bgsu.edu

H – Research, Evaluation, & Assessment in Schools

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

Gordon Brooks
Ohio University
brooksg@ohio.edu

Co-Chair: Nina Adjanin
Northwest State Missouri University
adanin@nwmissouri.edu

I – Education in the Professions

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

Eric Dimmitt
Marquette University
eric.dimmitt@marquette.edu

J – Postsecondary Education

This division concerns a broad range of two-year, four-year, and graduate education issues.

Susannah Townsend
The Ohio State University
townsend.862@osu.edu

K – Teaching & Teacher Education

This division concerns theory, practice, and research on teaching at all levels and in-service and pre-service teacher education, including field experiences and mentoring.

Sherri Horner
Bowling Green State University
shorner@bgsu.edu

Co-Chair: Amy Kochendoerfer
University of Findlay
amy.kochendoerfer@findlay.edu

L – Educational Policy & Politics

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

Nicole Shilling
St. Bonaventure University
nschilling@sbu.edu

Co-Chair: Justin Benna
North Dakota State University
justin.benna@ndsu.edu