



MWERA

Mid-Western Educational Research Association

48th Annual Meeting Dates October 28-30, 2026



Mid-Western
Educational
Research
Association



MWERA Isadore Newman Dissertation Award

MWERA is proud to announce the 2026 *Isadore Newman Dissertation Award!* Named for the past MWERA president, mentor, and contributor, this \$500 award is intended to encourage and recognize outstanding dissertation research appropriate to the field. Studies embracing “traditional” and or “non-traditional” conceptualizations and methods are welcome. Dissertations completed and successfully defended in the last three years are eligible for consideration.



Evaluation Criteria

1. *Significance and clarity of the problem investigated*
2. *Adequacy of conceptualization and development of research questions*
3. *Quality of review of relevant theoretical and research literature*
4. *Appropriateness and rigor of research designs and methods*
5. *Clarity of reporting finding/results*
6. *Appropriateness of interpretation of the research implications for theory, policy, practice, and further research*
7. *Quality and clarity of writing evidenced in the abstract and (for finalists only) the complete dissertation*

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Submissions

Submissions for this award should be sent to mweraconference@gmail.com with the same deadline as submissions for the MWERA Annual Conference (May 15th). Attach to the email, in separate documents, one copy of each of the following, preferably using MS Word.

- 1. The full dissertation including all tables, figures, references, and appendices. It should be masked and have no identifying information.**
- 2. A complete mailing address, telephone number, and email address for the dissertation's author.**
- 3. Proof of a successful dissertation defense (e.g., the signature page).**
- 4. A letter of nomination and endorsement from a professor or researcher familiar with the entrant's work. Ideally, this would be the author's chair/advisor.**

In addition to the email submission requirements above, a shorter paper proposal should be submitted through the All-Academic portal under a related Division. Please see the MWERA Call for Proposals for more information and word limits.

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Selection

Up to two award winners may be granted annually. To receive the award, winners must attend and present at the MWERA Annual Conference. The recipients will be recognized at the MWERA business meeting and luncheon during the conference. Award money must be used for travel, registration fees, and/or accommodations for the MWERA Annual Conference (receipts required). Submissions that do not win are automatically considered for inclusion in the MWERA conference as papers to be presented in appropriate divisions. Applicants will be notified by August 15th.

Inquiries should be directed to: mweraconference@gmail.com



Rubric

Target (2 points)	Acceptable (1 point)	Unacceptable (0 points)
<i>The applicant thoroughly addressed the significance and clarity of the problem investigated.</i>	<i>The applicant addressed the significance and clarity of the problem investigated.</i>	<i>The applicant did not address the significance and/or clarity of the problem investigated.</i>
<i>Applicant thoroughly conceptualized and developed the research question(s).</i>	<i>Applicant conceptualized and developed the research question(s).</i>	<i>The applicant did not conceptualize and/or develop the research question(s).</i>
<i>Applicant thoroughly reviewed relevant theoretical framework and research literature.</i>	<i>Applicant reviewed relevant theoretical framework and research literature.</i>	<i>The applicant did not review relevant theoretical frameworks and/or research literature.</i>
<i>The applicant thoroughly addressed an appropriate and rigorous research design and methods.</i>	<i>The applicant addressed an appropriate and rigorous research design and methods.</i>	<i>The applicant did not address an appropriate and rigorous research design and methods.</i>
<i>The applicant clearly reported the finding/results.</i>	<i>Applicant reported the finding/results.</i>	<i>The applicant did not report the finding/results.</i>
<i>The applicant provided an appropriate interpretation of the research for theory, policy, practice, and further research.</i>	<i>The applicant provided an interpretation of the research for theory, policy, practice, and further research.</i>	<i>The applicant did not provide an interpretation of the research for theory, policy, practice, and further research.</i>
<i>The applicant demonstrated quality and clarity of writing.</i>	<i>The applicant demonstrated quality or clarity of writing.</i>	<i>The applicant did not demonstrate the quality and clarity of writing.</i>

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