

Mid-Western Educational Research Association

35th Annual Meeting Call For Proposals Proposal Deadline: *May 1, 2012*

November 7-10, 2012
Hilton Orrington Hotel, Evanston, Illinois

David Walker, Program Chair
mwera2012@niu.edu

The 2012 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 2012 program will center on this year's theme: ***Integrating Evidence-Based Practices in Education***, and will feature dynamic speakers of interest to both researchers and practitioners. Teachers, administrators, and other school personnel are especially invited to come and share their school-based research and experiences at the 2012 MWERA conference.

We will be meeting at the Hilton Orrington Hotel in Evanston (www.hotelorrrington.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 night spots, 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!

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.



Come and be a part of MWERA in 2012!

General Information

The 2012 MWERA Annual Meeting will be held **Wednesday, November 7 through Saturday, November 10** at the Hilton Orrington Hotel in Evanston, Illinois. This year's theme is *Integrating Evidence-Based Practices in Education*. Expanding on last year's MWERA theme of "What Does it Mean to be Educated?" the 2012 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 concept of integrating evidence-based practices. Understanding how evidence-based practices are conceptualized, studied, and used in education is a timely and consequential endeavor. This may help researchers, practitioners, and those outside of the field begin a dialogue and possible relationship related to promising practices, predicated on evidence, that may be worth exploring and/or applying in a setting.

Attendance at the Annual Meeting

The 2012 Conference Program will consist primarily of presentations selected through a blind peer-review process. In addition, there will be invited speakers and symposia; panel discussions; special sessions for graduate students, new 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 November 2012 Annual Meeting are available on the MWERA website and can be obtained by contacting the Program Chair.

Ways to Participate

Any education professional may **submit a proposal** for the MWERA 2012 Annual Meeting, whether or not that person is currently a member of MWERA. However, before the 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). To promote broad participation in the program, no one person should appear as a presenter on more than three proposals.

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:

David Walker
MWERA—2012 Program Chair
Northern Illinois University
College of Education, 204 Gabel
DeKalb, IL 60115
Phone: 815-753-7886
Fax: 815-753-9388
Email: mwera2012@niu.edu

Guidelines for Submitting a Proposal

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 must be submitted no later than **midnight EST on May 1, 2012**. Submissions will then 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; (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).

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 2012 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 7, 2012**. 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 2012 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

Abstract

The abstract should be 100-150 words. The abstracts of accepted papers will be published in the *MWERA 2012 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.

Summary

Summaries for **Paper** and **Poster** proposals should be approximately 2500 words, or about 4-6 pages in length, and 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.

Summaries for **Symposium, Workshop, Alternative Session, Best Practices Forum, and Research in Progress** proposals also should be approximately 2500 words and explicitly address as many of the following as appropriate, preferably in this order: (a) descriptive title; (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 kind of audience involvement. Limited program space may be available for these types of sessions.

Important Dates

Proposal Submission Deadline	May 1, 2012
Notification of Acceptance	July 31, 2012
Hotel Reservations	October 7, 2012
Join MWERA	October 7, 2012
Annual Meeting Registration	October 7, 2012
Papers to Session Chairs/Discussants	October 7, 2012
MWERA 2012 Annual Meeting	November 7-10, 2012

Session Format Descriptions

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

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 table-top 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.

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.

Alternative Session

The form, topics, and format of alternative sessions 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 scholarly work of a variety of types. Proposals for alternative sessions must include a brief rationale for the alternative being proposed and 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 basic quality or value of the topic. The organizer of alternative sessions is responsible for all major participants or speakers, developing and providing materials, and chairing the session.

Best Practices Forum

The Best Practices sessions 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.

Research in Progress

Research in Progress is a new session format this year that 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.

Division Chair 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 Chair: Dustin Derby*, Palmer College of Chiropractic, 1000 Brady Street, Davenport, IA 52803, dustin.derby@palmer.edu

B - Curriculum Studies

This division is concerned with curriculum and instructional practice, theory, and research. *Division Chair: Karen Brown*, Nazareth Academy, 6500 W. 33rd St., Berwyn, IL 60402, kbrown@nazarethacademy.com

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: Marilyn Petty Glick*, Indiana University Kokomo, 2300 South Washington, Kokomo, IN 46904, mpglick@iuk.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 Chair: Kate Akers*, Kentucky Department of Education, 500 Metro St. 1st Floor, Frankfort, KY 40601, kate.akers@education.ky.gov

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 Chair: Tracey Stuckey-Mickell*, The Ohio State University, 145B Ramseyer Hall, 29 W. Woodruff Ave., Columbus, OH 43120, stuckey-mickell.1@osu.edu

F - History & Historiography

This division is concerned with the findings and methodologies of historical research in education. *Division Chair: Casey Hurley*, Western Carolina University, 238 Killian Building, Cullowhee, NC 28723, churley@wcu.edu

G - Social Context of Education

This division is concerned with theory, practice, and research on social, moral, affective, motivational characteristics, and multicultural perspectives. *Division Chair: Xi Zhao*, Miami University, 819 S. College Ave., Oxford, OH, 45056 zhaox3@muohio.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 Chair: Janet Holt*, Northern Illinois University, 204 Gabel Hall, DeKalb, IL 60115, jholt@niu.edu

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). *Division Co-Chairs: Penny Soboleski*, Bowling Green State University, 533 Education, Bowling Green, OH 43403, pennvs@bgsu.edu & *Anne George*, Saint Xavier University, 3700 West, 103rd Street, Chicago, IL 60655, george@sxu.edu

J - Postsecondary Education

This division is concerned with a broad range of issues related to two-year, four-year, and graduate education. *Division Chair: Katrina Daytner*, Western Illinois University, 115q Horrabin Hall, Macomb, IL 61455, KM-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 Chair: Sharon Valente*, Savannah College of Art and Design, 126 East Gaston Street, Savannah, GA, 31402, drsvalente@gmail.com

L - Educational Policy & Politics

This division is concerned with educational policy as well as political, legal, and fiscal matters related to education. *Division Chair: Lynda Leavitt*, Lindenwood University, 209 South Kingshighway, St. Charles, MO, lleavitt@lindenwood.edu