

Mid-Western Educational Research Association

46th Annual Meeting | Oct 16-19, 2024

Graduate Hotel, Cincinnati, Ohio



Call for Proposals

Proposal Deadline: 11:59 PM EDT on May 1, 2024



Our Venue

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Mid-Western Educational Research Association (MWERA) will be held at the beautiful [Graduate Hotel](#) formerly the Kingsgate Conference Center in Cincinnati, Ohio. This is our fifth year at this scenic, stylish well-situated location. The hotel will provide us with spacious and well-equipped meeting facilities and plenty of common spaces for networking with fellow MWERA members. Additionally, the conference center is a short walk to the Cincinnati Zoo and about ten minutes to downtown, so a short bus or Uber ride away from the Ohio River, National Underground Freedom Center, Over-the-Rhine, Cincinnati Museum Center at Union Terminal, and the Banks.

This year we invite all scholars, professionals, students, practitioners, and administrators —to join us in a friendly and collegial atmosphere as we connect around the issues and problems that are 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!

Conference Theme

Come present and learn with MWERA this year! We have an exciting program of workshops, invited speakers, and peer-reviewed scholarly works presented in a variety of session formats. This year's program theme is:

Can Research Shape the Future of Public Education?

It would be difficult to recall a time when the mission of public education was in greater jeopardy than it is now. Public schools have come to expect attacks on student achievement, international competitiveness, or teacher quality with their accompanying changes in curriculum, teaching methods and teacher preparation standards. While questions of the purpose of public schooling have been raised over the years, resulting in thought-provoking debates between some of our most brilliant scholars and advocates, what is occurring now is a more profound, existential threat to the institution itself. Any attempt to fundamentally redefine the schools should be considered in light of Chief Justice Warren's reminder in the *Brown vs Board* decision that public education is "perhaps the most important function of state and local governments" and the "very foundation of good citizenship".

Among the threats to public education are declining enrollments, a lack of interest in becoming teachers, systematic attempts by special interest groups to shape local school boards and a decline in the overall trust in public schools. Perhaps the most seismic impact on the foundation of public education is the radical shift in how the purpose of the institution is being redefined. Historically, the purpose of a tax-supported education was informed by founders such as Jefferson, Paine and Rush who emphasized the common good and common cultural identity. Those assumptions are turned on their head in a cultural climate where one governor recently claimed that any education paid for by a taxpayer is public education. That

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sentiment led to more than 10 states passing school voucher programs in the first half of 2023 alone. With no indication that the current trend will slow we would do well to recall Plato's argument that in order to talk about the good life, we have to talk about the good society; and in order to talk about the good society, we have to talk about the kind of education that will bring that society into existence and sustain it. And, if public education becomes any education funded by public dollars, what will that mean for the future of public education – and democracy?

Of particular interest to the conference theme, we seek proposals that address the most immediate advocacy needs:

- Alternative purposes and definitions of public education
- Public perceptions of public schools
- Rebuilding trust in public schools
- State policies regarding school choice/vouchers
- Historical perspectives on public education
- School choice and democratic society

What research is needed to support the traditional roles of public education? Is there evidence that public education is fulfilling its traditional mission? What is the role of public accountability in a context of private choice? What is the role of teacher education in a school choice environment? Is school choice really a treat to public education?

Please join us at the 2024 MWERA Conference in Cincinnati, Ohio, to explore these issues and more!

General Information

The 2024 Annual Meeting of the Midwestern Educational Research Association will be held October 16-19, 2024. We invite K-12 educators, higher educators, researchers, administrators, policymakers, and others involved in the enterprise of education to submit proposals for presentation at the meeting.

The proposal submission deadline is 11:59 PM, EDT on May 1, 2024. Whether or not you are planning to submit a proposal to present, please consider attending to enhance your professional development by attending sessions and/or becoming more involved with the MWERA organization leadership or the MWER journal. We welcome participation from all sectors of education.

Attendance at the Annual Meeting

The 2024 Conference Program will consist primarily of presentations selected through a blind peer-review process. All proposals including panels and research-in-progress papers are selected through the peer-reviewed process of MWERA. In addition, there will be invited speakers and symposia; panel discussions; special sessions for graduate students, new faculty, and new members; as well as the Friday keynote 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. Business meetings are intended for all 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. ****Both membership and registration are required for attendees and presenters.***

Membership and Conference Registration materials for the 2024 Annual Meeting will soon be available on the MWERA website (<http://www.mwera.org/>) and specific questions can be addressed to specific division chairs (contact information on the following pages) or the Program Chair at mweraconference@gmail.com.

Ways to Participate

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Presenter: Any education professional may submit a proposal for the 2024 MWERA 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 broader participation in the program, *no one person should appear as a presenter on more than three proposals.*

Attendee: You can participate simply by attending the conference and/or encouraging your colleagues and students to participate in any way (please share this Call for Proposals with others). All forms of participation are necessary to ensure a successful Annual Meeting. Please plan to attend as many sessions as possible at the conference. Not only will you learn a lot about educational research, but you also will be providing a service to your colleagues by asking questions and offering expert feedback. All persons attending the 2024 Annual Meeting are expected to be members in good standing and to pre-register for the full meeting.

Reviewers, Session Chairs, and Session Discussants: Division Chairs are seeking MWERA members to serve as Proposal Reviewers and Session Chairs/Discussants. Please volunteer on the conference website. If you have specific questions, contact a Division Chair or the Program Chair. All persons participating at the 2024 Annual Meeting are expected to be members in good standing and to pre-register for the full meeting.

Questions about proposals, the electronic submission process, or the meeting, in general, should be directed to Division Chairs or to the Program Chair: **Rick Breault, MWERA—2024 Program Chair, Ashland University, Email:** mweraconference@gmail.com.

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:

<http://www.mwera.org>

Deadline for Proposal Submission

All proposals must be submitted no later than **11:59 PM EDT on May 1, 2024**. All proposals that are submitted by this deadline are guaranteed to be reviewed. 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). Please inform your Division Chairs (contact info can be found at the end of this call) if you plan to submit more than one proposal to a division.

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);

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- 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).

Criteria for 'Research in Progress' 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. Overall written proposal quality (clarity of writing, logic, and organization).

Papers presented at MWERA are expected to be **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 at mweraconference@gmail.com.

Expectations of Presenters

All persons, including graduate students, presenting and participating at the 2024 Annual Meeting are expected to be **members in good standing** and to **pre-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 September 13, 2024**. Papers not uploaded to the website by this date may be dropped from the program. Presenters are also expected to attend sessions in order to demonstrate good-faith collegiality and professional courtesy. While adding to your CV is important, learning from your colleagues and offering feedback benefits all conference participants.

LCD projectors and screens will be provided by MWERA in presentation rooms. **Presenters needing an 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). 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 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 2024 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 Division Chairs and Program Chair in advance.

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Session Descriptors and Format Descriptions

Session Descriptors

When submitting, you'll be asked to choose an MWERA division (Division A through Division L) that best aligns with your proposal. These division descriptors can be viewed in the "Membership" link on the [mwera.org](https://www.mwera.org) site.

<https://www.mwera.org/membership.html>

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 10 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. In addition, a Session Discussant is allowed approximately 10-15 minutes, following all papers, for comments, synthesis, and/or constructive feedback. A Session Chair moderates the entire session. Presenters are expected to provide complete copies of their papers to all interested audience members.

Poster

Poster sessions are intended to provide opportunities for interested individuals to participate in a dialogue with both the presenter(s) and other interested individuals. Presenters are provided an area in which to display a Poster (digital or paper posters are acceptable), ancillary handouts, or other table-top A/V materials. Digital posters must be displayed on the presenter's own laptop. Interested individuals are free to move into and out of these poster presentations as they wish.

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, Research in Progress papers will be arranged to provide graduate students and/or 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.

Symposium/ Panel presentation

A symposium/panel is intended to provide an opportunity for the examination of specific problems or topics from a variety of perspectives. Organizers are expected to chair, identify the topic or issue, and locate the individual speakers who will participate in the session, prepare any necessary materials, and facilitate the session. It is suggested, though not required, that the speakers or the organizer will provide interested individuals with one (or more) papers relevant to, reflective of, 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 Apps, 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

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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 any necessary 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. Presenters are expected to make available copies of handouts on which the “Best Practices” session focused.

Content Required for Proposals

The following guidelines are required for proposals. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your Division Chair or the Program Chair.

Abstracts: Paper, Posters, & Other Sessions

The abstract should be 100-150 words. The abstracts of accepted papers will be published in the *MWERA 2024 Annual Meeting Abstracts publication* and may be available on the MWERA website. Use clear, precise language, which can be understood by readers outside your discipline. **The abstract MUST be followed by a summary.**

Summaries: Paper, Posters, & Other Sessions

Generally, summaries for ALL proposals should be **approximately 2500 words**. Summaries for **Paper and Poster** 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; and (e) educational and/or scientific importance of the work. Research in progress 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) educational and/or scientific importance of the work. **NOTE: If you do NOT yet have full results/conclusions for your research, then you must submit a Research in Progress proposal and indicate that your data analysis is in progress.**

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 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 Deadlines

Proposal Submission Deadline: May 1, 2024

Notification of Acceptance/Rejection: August 1, 2024

Early Bird Registration: September 13, 2024

Hotel Reservations: September 30, 2024

Upload full papers: September 13, 2024

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MWERA Awards

Distinguished Paper Award

Each year the State and Regional Educational Research Association (SRERA) special interest group of American Educational Research Association (AERA) invites its member state and regional affiliates to each 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 from its exemplary proposals to submit for presentation at the next AERA Annual Meeting. The award recipient is expected to present the paper at AERA and will receive a \$150 stipend to defray the cost of registration.

In order for *MWER* editors to access work to be considered for the Distinguished Paper, presenters at the annual MWERA conference must upload a final and complete paper to the association's online conference management system by the last day of the MWERA conference. In addition, the author or lead author must be able to present the paper at the AERA conference in order to be eligible for this award. The Distinguished Paper awardee will be notified by mid-January, following the fall conference, of the decision.

Please check <https://www.mwera.org/MWER/distinguished-papers.html> for more details

Isadore Newman Dissertation Award

Named for past MWERA president, mentor, and contributor, the \$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 (2021-2024) are eligible for consideration.

Submissions:

E-mail: Submit 1 (one) copy of each of the following, by attachment, preferably using MSWord to:

Date: E-mail submissions must be received by July 1st to mwera.ed@gmail.com

Include the following in separate documents:

1. The complete blinded dissertation including all tables, figures, references, and appendices;
2. The MWERA paper proposal;
3. A complete mailing address, telephone number, and email address for the dissertation's author;
4. A letter of nomination and endorsement from a professor/researcher who is familiar with the entrant's work.

Please check the conference webpage- <https://www.mwera.org/awards.html> for more details.

*Note: The Isadore Newman Dissertation Awards will only be presented if the Committee reviewing nominations decides there is a deserving entry.

Aimin Wang and Francis Godwyll Professional Recruitment Award

Recipients are those who have the largest number of professionals who indicated with their registration that the recipient encouraged them to join and/or attend the Annual Meeting. To qualify for the award, make sure that any professionals whom you've encouraged to register/attend indicate this with their registration.

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Jean Pierce Chocolate Rose Award

Recipients are those who have the largest number of students who indicated with their registration that the recipient encouraged them to join and/or attend the Annual Meeting. To qualify for the award, make sure that any students whom you've encouraged to register/attend indicate this with their registration.

Division Chair Contact Information

If you want to make an inquiry about the work of the MWERA divisions, below is the contact information for the Division Chairs. Also, if you plan to submit a proposal and you are unsure about the division to which it should go, please feel free to contact the division leadership or the Program Chair.

A – Administration, Organization, & Leadership

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

Chair: Nathan Schilling
Concordia University – Chicago
Nathan.schilling@cuchicago.edu

Co-Chair: Andrew Benson
University of Cincinnati
bensonag@mail.uc.edu

B – Curriculum Studies

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

See Division G

C – Learning & Instruction

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

See Division K

D – Measurement & Research Methodology

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

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

Co-Chair: Patrick Yang
University of West Florida
pyang@uwf.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.

See Division I

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F – History & Historiography

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

Chair: Kevin Krahenbuhl

Co-Chair: Vacant

Middle Tennessee State University

kevin.krahenbuhl@mtsu.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.

Chair: Holly Endres

NHA Schools

57.hendres@nhaschools.com

Co-Chair: Thomas Haynes

Cleveland State University

t.n.haynes@csuohio.edu

H – Research, Evaluation, & Assessment in Schools

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

Chair: Fawn Schulz

Indian Lake Schools

schulzf@findlay.edu

Co-Chair: Audrey Roberts

Bowling Green State University

audrobe@bgsu.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, and engineering).

Chair: Rick Breault

Ashland University

rbreault@ashland.edu

Co-Chair: Vacant

J – Postsecondary Education

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

Chair: Angie Miller

Indiana University – Bloomington

anglmill@indiana.edu

Co-Chair: Emily Creamer

Ohio State University

emilytcreammerphd@gmail.com

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 experiences and mentoring.

Chair: Terry Stockton

Grand Valley State University

stocktte@gvsu.edu

Co-Chair: Eric Junco

Northern Illinois University

ejunco1@niu.edu

L – Educational Policy & Politics

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

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Chair: Andrew Benson
University of Cincinnati
bensonag@mail.uc.edu

Co-Chair: Yohanna Agyei
Western Illinois University
y-agyei@wiu.edu