

Mid-Western Educational Research Association

Hilton Orrington Hotel, Evanston, Illinois

37th Annual Meeting

Call for Proposals

Proposal Deadline: *June 1, 2014*

Come and be a part of MWERA in 2014!

November 12-15, 2014 T. Mark Beasley, Program Chair
E-mail: mwera2014@gmail.com

The 2014 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 2014 program will center on this year's theme:

The Changing Roles of Institutes of Learning: The Transformative Power of Technology.

The conference 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 2014 MWERA conference.

The conference based on the mission statement of MWERA will look critically, optimistically and strategically at the realities of "**The Changing Roles of Institutes of Learning: The Transformative Power of Technology**" as our theme for the 2014 conference.

The growing trend in online education provides the promise of more convenience and wider access for potential learners. Technology has changed the way we communicate and cyber-based resources have the potential to revolutionize our ability to educate and transform the way students learn. The transition from a brick-and-mortar classroom to cyberspace course implementation presents challenges and opportunities for the online experience and considerations for creating online educational resources. Yet, questions remain about whether online education in its current state actually "delivers" on these potential promises and how these issues impact the future of the educational process.

Education has been the means for empowerment for developing and building capacities of individuals,

institutions, and communities to make them part of the main stream society. Access to equitable and affordable educational opportunities has gradually enhanced opportunities for children and youth, yet we have more work to do. The conference will create the space for dialoging, discussing and sharing our research, experiences, thoughts, ideas and work about the theme within the broad context of our educational systems, organizations, and communities. 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 field work on contemporary research practices.

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.

General Information

The 2014 MWERA Annual Meeting will be held **Wednesday, November 12 through Saturday, November 15** at the Hilton Orrington Hotel in Evanston, Illinois. This year's theme is "*The Changing Roles of Institutes of Learning: The Transformative Power of Technology*" the 2014 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.

Below three 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.

1. Educational Design and Technology. As the demand for internet-based learning increases, so grows the need for knowledgeable instructors comfortable with delivering content online. Therefore, we welcome theme-related presentations, symposia, workshops involving:

- Educators who have taught courses with advanced technologies to sharing their experiences
- Experienced Online Instructors assisting educators who are considering new online courses or programs, or who are seeking to modify ongoing offerings.
- Instructional models- Intradisciplinary Perspectives
- Discussion of general principles to teaching with advanced technologies.
- Challenges to tailoring principles of online education to content specific areas?
- Dealing with diverse academic programs where student goals, preparation, and computer literacy vary considerably.
- Visualizing problems and possibilities for developing curriculum in content specific areas.

2. The Changing Role of Education

Given the distance and anonymity of both the instructor and students in the online environment, there are questions about whether online education provides the "sense of community" and student-teacher rapport that seem more obvious in traditional educational settings and whether results in an educational experience of lesser quality. Therefore, we welcome theme-related presentations, symposia, workshops involving:

- Educational Connections Beyond the Online Classroom and Beyond
- Networking is more immediate; however, is it at loss of "face time" and "quality" communication?
- Credentialing and the perceived value and reputation of online degrees
- The role of social media in the transmission of scientific evidence
- The changing roles of academic journals in the online-only open access era.
- Protection of academic freedom in the instantaneous information age
- Is the Online Degree Killing the Traditional College?
- Managing the Culture of Change- Assumptions and Practical Outcomes

3. Access to Online Education

Although technology is ubiquitous with tablets, smartphones and other portable communication devices, there are lingering questions on whether cyber-education actually reaches all of the intended parties. Therefore, we welcome theme-related presentations, symposia, workshops involving:

- Social Justice – Is there online education for all?
- Are there still under-served segments of the population?
- Can online education empower an under-served segment of society
- Suburban Sprawl and Post-Secondary Education
- Globalizing Education- Research, Knowledge, and Practice
- Defining and assuring access to online education- How far: how near?
- Social Media- Connecting and Collaborating with Educators

Journal Submission

MWERA's journal, *the Midwestern Educational Researcher (MWER)*, has long published the featured and keynote speakers' contributions to annual conferences. *MWER* will now also publish an exemplary manuscript selected from each division. To be considered, you must upload a complete manuscript to the MWERA All-Academic website prior to the conference. Papers that address the conference theme will be given priority, though other quality papers will be considered. Final acceptance for publication will still depend on the results of the peer review process. More information will be forthcoming at <http://www.mwera.org/MWER/>

Attendance at the Annual Meeting

The 2014 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 2014 Annual Meeting will soon be available on the MWERA website and can be obtained by contacting the Program Chair at mwera2014@gmail.com

Ways to Participate

Any education professional may **submit a proposal** for the MWERA 2014 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:

T. Mark Beasley

MWERA—2014 Program Chair

University of Alabama at Birmingham

309 E Ryals Public Health Building

Birmingham AL 35294

Phone: 205-975-4957

Fax: 205-975-2540

Email: mwera2014@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: www.mwera.org

Deadline for Proposal Submission

All proposals must be submitted no later than **midnight EST on June 1, 2014**. 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 2014 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, 2014**. 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 2014 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 2014 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.

Summary

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.

Summaries for **Symposium, Workshop, Alternative Session, Best Practices Forum, and Research in Progress**.

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 Dates

Proposal Submission Deadline June 1, 2014

Notification of Acceptance/Rejection July 31, 2014

Hotel Reservations October 13, 2014

Join MWERA October 13, 2014

Annual Meeting Registration October 13, 2014

Papers to Session Chairs/Discussants October 13, 2014

MWERA 2014 Annual Meeting November 12-15, 2014

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 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.

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 flexible than paper sessions. The panelists could discuss a topic as a group rather than giving individual papers with active engagement of the audience. Panels could be scheduled for 50-60 minutes including the time for audience participation.

MWERA 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 manuscripts to submit for presentation at AERA, which is being held in Chicago in spring 2015. The award recipient is expected to present the paper at AERA and will receive a \$150 stipend to defray the cost of registration.

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: **Mohamed Nur-Awaleh**

Illinois State University

manuraw@ilstu.edu

B - Curriculum Studies

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

Division Chair: **Eurvine Williams**

Illinois State University

ewillia@ilstu.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 Chair: **Tracey Stuckey-Mickell**

The Ohio State University

stuckey-mickell.1@osu.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 Chair: **Elena Lyutykh**

Concordia University Chicago

Elena.Lyutykh@cuchicago.edu

F - History & Historiography

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

Division Co-Chairs:

Mohamed Nur-Awaleh

Illinois State University

manuraw@ilstu.edu

Melissa Pitcock

Illinois State University

mepitco@ilstu.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 Chair: **Yikang Wang**

Miami University

wangy33@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 Chair: **Spencer Pasero**

Fermilab Education Office

spasero@fnal.gov

pasero@gmail.com

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 Co-Chairs:

Penny Soboleski

Bowling Green State University

pennys@bgsu.edu

Anne George

Saint Xavier University

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 Co-Chairs:

Katrina Daytner

Western Illinois University

KM-Daytner@wiu.edu

Eric Mansfield

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Brandon Hensley

Illinois State University

bohensl@ilstu.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 Co-Chairs:

Laney Bender-Slack

Xavier University

benderslackd@xavier.edu

Teresa Young

Xavier University

youngt3@xavier.edu

L – Educational Policy & Politics

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

Division Chair: **Ting Li**

Miami University

lit@muohio.edu