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Mid-Western Educational Research Association 34th Annual Meeting Call for Proposals

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Mid-Western Educational Research Association

34th Annual Meeting Call for Proposals

Proposal Deadline: *May 1, 2011*

“What does it mean to be educated?”

October 12-15, 2011

Sheraton Westport Plaza Tower Hotel, St Louis, Missouri

Ellen A. Sigler, Ed.D. Program Chair

mwera2011@wcu.edu

The 2011 Annual Meeting of the Mid-Western Educational Research Association (MWERA) will be held in the greater St. Louis area, with an exciting program of invited speakers, workshops, and peer-reviewed papers presented in a variety of session formats.

The 2011 program will center upon this year’s theme: **“What does it mean to be educated?”** The gap between research and practice can only be bridged if we define what it means to be educated in a rich, useful way. What are the different philosophies and definitions of “educated” that inform our practice? At all levels, from preschool programs to doctoral programs, the program theme encourages us to explore our goals as educators, the purpose of our schools, and the expectations we have of those we teach. Attendees and presenters are invited to explore questions beneath the surface of the work done by both researchers and teachers.

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 2011 MWERA conference.

We will be meeting at the **Sheraton Westport Plaza Tower Hotel**. The hotel is centrally located in St. Louis’s popular West Port Plaza area, placing us just minutes from some of the city’s most popular attractions. West Port Plaza offers access to more than 30 restaurants, exclusive shops, and entertainment. For more information go to <http://www.sheratonwestport.com/> and click on **Sheraton Westport Plaza Tower**.



Ways to Participate

Anyone may **submit a proposal** for the MWERA 2011 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. To promote broader 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 the Program Chair if you are willing to serve. Finally, you can participate by attending the conference and encouraging colleagues and students to participate.

Guidelines for Submitting a Proposal

Although 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 MWERA website. Specific instructions for submission can be found at www.mwera.org.

Deadline for Proposal Submission

The proposal portal will be **open March 15, 2011** and all proposals must be submitted no later than **May 1, 2011**.

Criteria for Proposal Review

Depending on the format and type of scholarly work being presented, appropriate criteria have been developed and will be 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. theoretical/conceptual framework;
- e. analyses and interpretations (significance, implications, relationship of conclusions to findings, generalizability, or trustworthiness); and
- f. overall written quality (clarity of writing, logic, and organization).

Papers presented at MWERA are expected to be original work 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.

Content Required for Proposals

NOTE: These are blind reviews. No identifying information should be included in the proposal or on the cover page.

Abstract

The abstract should be 100-150 words. The abstracts of accepted papers will be published in the *MWERA 2011 Annual Meeting Program* and may be available on the MWERA website. Use clear, precise language, which can be understood by readers outside your discipline.

Paper or Poster Session

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.

Symposium, Workshop, Alternative Session, and Best Practices Forum

Summaries for **Symposium, Workshop, Alternative Session, and Best Practices Forum** proposals also 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) 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. A specific session time period may be requested; however, session length is dependent on room availability and is under the discretion of the program chair.

Session Descriptors for Proposals

Please be certain to use the approved MWERA descriptors in completing your proposal. These descriptors are located on the "Annual Meeting Information" tab of the MWERA website www.mwera.org/information.html and as part of the submission process.

Session Format Descriptors

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. 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 small, table-top Poster, ancillary handouts, or other table-top A/V materials. Interested individuals are free to move into and out of these poster presentations as they wish. Presenters are expected to make available complete copies of the paper on which the poster was focused.

Symposium

A symposium is intended to provide an opportunity for examination of specific problems or topics 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 for the symposium, and facilitate the session. It is suggested, though not required, that the speakers or symposium 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 features of the Internet, or conduct an advanced statistical analysis). Workshops may be up to 1.5 hours and organizers are responsible for providing all necessary materials for participants.

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 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 complete copies of the paper on which the “Best Practices” session focused.

Expectations of Presenters

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 15, 2011**.

MWERA reserves the right to reproduce and distribute summaries and abstracts of all accepted proposals, including making such works available in a printed or electronic form, through the MWERA website, and in various promotional materials, and in press releases promoting the Annual Meeting and the organization. As a condition of acceptance, all authors of papers accepted to the 2011 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 to present the accepted material and to notify the Program Chair in advance, or as soon as possible.

Dates to Remember

March 15, 2011	Proposal portal opens
May 1, 2011	Proposal Submission Deadline
July, 2011	Notification of acceptance to first listed presenter/proposal submitter
September 11, 2011	Last day for conference hotel guaranteed room-rate
September 16, 2011	Accepted Papers uploaded for discussant review
October 12-15, 2011	Conference dates for MWERA in St. Louis

Questions

Questions about proposals, the electronic submission process, or the meeting in general should be directed to the Program Chair:

Ellen A. Sigler, Ed.D.

Department of Psychology

Western Carolina University

mwera2011@wcu.edu

Division 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.

Larry Cook lcook@ashland.edu Ashland University

B—Curriculum Studies

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

Jill Phipps phipps@uakron.edu The University of Akron

C—Learning & Instruction

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

Larry Tinnermen Larry.Tinnerman@indstate.edu Indiana State University

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.

Dustin Derby dustin.derby@palmer.edu Palmer College of Chiropractic

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.

Tracy Stuckey-Mickell tmickell@ehe.osu.edu The Ohio State University

F—History, Historiography (to include Philosophy)

This division is concerned with the findings and methodologies of historical research in education. In addition, this division also welcomes papers concerning educational thought and philosophies applied to educational practice TBD.

Ellen Sigler esigler@wcu.edu Western Carolina University.

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.

Ting Li lit@muohio.edu Miami University

H—Research, Evaluation, & Assessment in Schools

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

Caroline Prior capryor@siue.edu Southern Illinois University

I—Education in the Professions (to include the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning - SOTL)

This division is concerned with educational practice, research, and evaluation in the professions (e.g., medicine, nursing, public health, business, law, and engineering). In addition, this division also welcomes papers on the scholarship of teaching and learning, which involves the scholarly inquiry into student learning which advances the practice of teaching in post secondary programs.

Anne George george@sxu.edu Saint Xavier University

J—Postsecondary Education

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

Eric Mansfield EA-mansfield@wiu.edu Western Illinois University

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.

Tasha Almond tashaA@mtplains.com Mountain Plains Evaluation

L – Educational Policy & Politics

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

Lynda Leavitt lleavitt@lindenwood.edu Lindenwood University

For membership information <http://www.mwera.org>