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## The Mid-Western Educational Research Association's 34th Annual Meeting October 12–15, 2011

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The Mid-Western Educational Research Association's

## **34th Annual Meeting**

**October 12–15, 2011**

**Sheraton Westport Tower Hotel  
St. Louis, Missouri**

### *What does it mean to be educated?*

As Vice President and Program Chair for the 2011 Mid-Western Educational Research Association Conference let me be the first to welcome you to join our membership at the 2011 conference in St. Louis! The conference will be held at the newly remodeled Sheraton Westport Plaza Tower Hotel just a quick ride to Busch Stadium, Scottrade Center and major St. Louis Attractions. While the area offers exciting appeal and great restaurants, the MWERA 2011 conference promises an interesting program, high-quality presentations, and many professional and social gatherings. I certainly hope you will consider spending the 12th-15th of October 2011 attending this year's conference.

This year's theme, "What does it mean to be educated?" is both stimulating and thought provoking and lies at the root of all we do in education. We are all involved with some aspect of education, yet actually articulating what "being educated" means to our colleagues, our children, our students, and ourselves is a difficult undertaking that is often not addressed. The theme invites teachers and principals, educators and students, experts and novices, to think about the nature of our various education systems in the United States and abroad and to reflect upon the nature and relevance of our current practices and ideas. In addition, our two keynote speakers are willing and able to help us expand our ideas, question our paradigms, and maybe rethink how and what we do every day. Dr. J. Casey Hurley, Professor, from the College of Education and Allied Professions at Western Carolina University will join our membership at the Wednesday night fireside chat and the Thursday morning keynote address. Dr. Mary John O'Hair, Dean of the College of Education at the University of Kentucky, will speak at the Friday MWERA luncheon. Both keynote speakers are enthusiastic about being a part of MWERA 2011!

For those of you who may not be familiar with MWERA, the participants of this organization have a reputation of being extremely collegial and professional. Members and presenters are practitioners and researchers; educators from universities, community colleges, and P-12 schools; those from the academy and the private sector; seasoned professors, graduate and undergraduate students. There is something for everyone. Sessions cover a myriad of aspects of educational research including teaching and learning, schools and school reform, assessment and testing, and institutional planning and effectiveness.

The conference has a rich history and a long tradition of building long term collaborations, professional relationships and friendships. Many of our members have continued to participate and attend the annual conference despite moving out of the mid-western region.

Again, I welcome you to the 2011 MWERA conference and hope to "See you in St. Louis!"

Ellen A. Sigler, Ed.D.

Program Chair

Western Carolina University

**Conference and hotel registration information and forms are available at the MWERA web site:**

**<http://www.mwera.org>**

# What does it mean to be educated?



## *Thursday Morning Keynote Address*

Featured Speaker

**Dr. J. Casey Hurley**



Dr. J. Casey Hurley is a professor of Educational Administration at Western Carolina University. He served as secretary of the Faculty Senate from 1996 to 2000 and chair of the faculty from 2000 to 2002. He also coordinates the university's Master of Arts in Education degree program in Jamaica and other international sites. His research interests lie in educational leadership, the principalship, and organizational theory and practice. As the author of *The Six Virtues of the Educated Person*, he describes the definition of an educated person promoted among today's policymakers (achieving high standardized test scores), and then he argues for a definition that is rooted in philosophy instead of politics. Dr. Hurley makes several points in the book, the most basic being that efforts to improve education will continue to be unproductive because we have not defined what it means to be educated.

# What does it mean to be educated?



## *Friday Luncheon Keynote Address*

Featured Speaker

**Dr. Mary John O’Hair**



Mary John O’Hair’s successful history of connecting university innovation to the daily practices of students, principals and teachers has come to fruition in Kentucky through creation of the Kentucky P20 Innovation Lab. As Dean of the University of Kentucky College of Education, she is developing this laboratory to partner school systems with the resources of universities and create a seamless system of education, from birth to graduate school and careers. Ultimately, the Kentucky P20 Innovation Lab will help schools establish innovative and lasting change to meet the future learning needs for all students. As a former teacher, faculty member and administrator, Dr. O’Hair has shown a commitment to educational excellence through her academic and professional achievements, and she brings a strong background of experience in teaching and learning, research and innovation, and professional practice. Dr. O’Hair’s research and teaching interests lie in school-university-community partnerships, learning communities in the STEM disciplines (science, technology, engineering and math), and international education networking. She has received over \$40 million in funding and grants to support her research. Dr. O’Hair has published numerous articles and books on systemic innovation, organizational learning, and school-university-community partnerships.

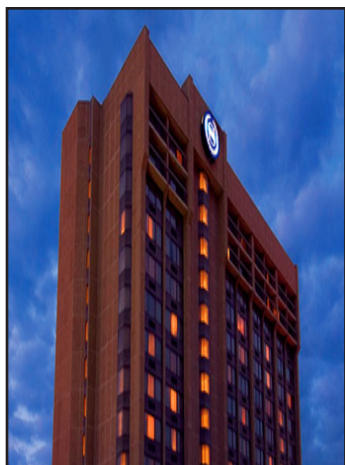
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## Hotel Registration

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### Sheraton Westport Tower Hotel St. Louis

191 Westport Plaza, St. Louis, Missouri 63146 (Phone: 314-878-1500)



The Westport Tower Hotel is nestled in the northwestern area of greater St. Louis. The Tower hotel is situated just five miles from Lambert International Airport, with complimentary airport transportation. The Tower Hotel is situated within the Westport Plaza which features various restaurants, nightclubs, and several specialty shops. The Sheraton Westport Tower is just minutes from historic St. Charles, the Saint Louis Zoo, Art Museum, and the History Museum. The world famous Gateway Arch, Harrah's St. Louis Riverport Casino, Ameristar Casino, Westfield Shopping Town, St. Louis Mills Mall, and the St. Louis Galleria Shopping Center are all nearby.

Please make your reservations online at:

<http://www.starwoodhotels.com/sheraton/reservations/index.html>

If you call the hotel directly, please make sure you indicate that you are with MWERA.

### AN IMPORTANT NOTE TO ALL CONFERENCE ATTENDEES

It is very important to MWERA that you stay at the Sheraton Westport Tower Hotel, our conference hotel, while you are at the conference. MWERA pays a discounted rate on our meeting rooms and facilities based on the number of conference attendees who stay at the conference hotel. If you choose to stay elsewhere, you may save a few dollars now, but that may mean that next year we have to significantly raise our conference rate to cover our hotel expenses. Please help us keep our commitment and costs low by staying at the Sheraton Westport Tower Hotel.

***Absolute deadline for making reservations is September 11, 2011.***

***The hotel cannot guarantee the MWERA special reservations rate after this date.***

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## MWERA Annual Conference Registration

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**Please be advised that hotel reservations and MWERA conference registration ARE NOT one in the same.**

MWERA conference registration is required to attend the conference. MWERA prefers that you preregister by September 11, 2011 so we can have accurate counts for our activities. MWERA conference registration can be done online or by filling out and mailing in the registration form. Remember, active membership is also required for everyone who is participating in the conference. Registration and membership can be completed online by visiting the MWERA website at <http://www.mwera.org>. If you are having your registration paid by your employer, we suggest that you pay the fees and seek reimbursement. We will not accept any walk-in registrations without full payment.

***If your registration is not received by September 11, 2011, you will be charged the late conference registration fee.***