

1997

## Mid-Western Educational Research Association 1996 Conference

Kim K. Metcalf  
*Indiana University*

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### Recommended Citation

Metcalf, Kim K. (1997) "Mid-Western Educational Research Association 1996 Conference," *Mid-Western Educational Researcher*. Vol. 10: Iss. 1, Article 7.

Available at: <https://scholarworks.bgsu.edu/mwer/vol10/iss1/7>

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## Conference Highlights

### *Mid-Western Educational Research Association 1996 Conference*

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The Holiday Inn at Mart Plaza, Chicago, played host to the 1996 annual conference of the Mid-Western Educational Research Association. The 1996 conference, in addition to the new hotel, featured a variety of expanded session formats and offered both first time conference attendees and returning MWERA members the opportunity to experience research, scholarship, and ideas from a wide range of topics.

Three noted educational scholars were featured across the 3 ½ days of the conference. Dr. Herbert Walberg, research professor at the University of Illinois - Chicago, was featured in the opening Wednesday evening session. Dr. Walberg's presentation on educational productivity provided an interesting, thought-provoking, even unsettling contrast to speakers featured at MWERA conferences in recent years.

Dr. Carolyn Evertson of Peabody College at Vanderbilt University provided the Thursday morning keynote address. Dr. Evertson, widely recognized for her research, on classroom management and effective teaching, addressed her most recent line of scholarship in which she examines what it means to "teach for understanding." Her work with teachers in the Nashville area and with the Blue Ribbon Schools panel provided the context within which she has discovered much about the unique approaches and ways of thinking required by teachers when they attempt to help students understand content at higher levels.

Friday afternoon's luncheon speaker was Dr. Mary Kennedy of Michigan State University. Dr. Kennedy's most recent work and that on which she spoke focused on innovative ways of analyzing, organizing and reporting qualitative data on teachers' thinking.

#### *MWERA Past Presidents*

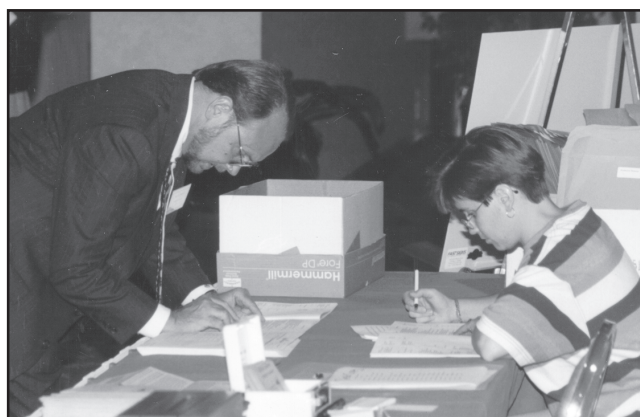


(from left) Ayres D'Costa, Ralph Darr, John Kennedy, Jean Pierce, Ken Kiewera, Isadore Newman, Richard Pugh, Greg Marchant, Tom Andre, Charles Anderson

In addition to notable speakers, the 1996 conference featured a much expanded series of round table presentations. The new facilities at the Holiday Inn enabled over 65 authors the opportunity to spend extended time explaining their research to interested individuals and interacting with those individuals about the specific aspects of their work. Invited speakers and special sessions included a panel discussion by past MWERA presidents, an intriguing discussion of successful educational researchers by Ken Kiewera, "The Virtual Library" by Molly Nicaise and Humphrey Loe, and a "Meet the Editors" session with the incoming editors of the *Mid-Western Educational Researcher*.

Attendance at this year's conference was surprisingly high in light of the numerous changes from past years. In addition to moving from the Bismarck to the Holiday Inn, MWERA members dealt with a substantially earlier deadline for proposals and conference dates approximately one week earlier than in past years. Among the most exciting highlights of this year's conference was the surprisingly large proportion of proposals submitted and presented by first time MWERA conference participants. Roughly 60% of all conference presentations were made by authors who had not before attended or participated in an MWERA conference.

Conference Program Chair, Kim Metcalf, repeatedly expressed his thanks and appreciation to the many individuals who helped make the 1996 conference a success. Dr. Tom Parrish, Program Chair for the 1997 Conference, invites individuals interested in assisting in preparing next years program to contact him directly.



Vice President Kim Metcalf and staff



*Sharon McNeely, President-Elect and Isadore Newman, Past President*



*Carolyn Everson, featured speaker, and Greg Marchant, MWERA President*



*Tom Parish, Vice President-Elect*



*John Surber and Ayres D'Costa, outgoing MWERA editors (Susan Brookhart, not shown)*



*Charles Anderson, Executive Office Emeritus, and Jean Pierce, MWERA Executive Officer*



*Mary Kennedy, featured luncheon speaker*