

Foreword

Welcome to the AERA Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, one of the nation's great historic cities. Help us to ring in this year's theme: "The Power of Education Research for Innovation in Practice and Policy." The two of us have had an exciting nine-month collaboration, reaching out to our membership and key voices in education to help us organize sessions that harness research for reform in practice and policy. With more than 2,400 sessions, including a theme-related set of Presidential sessions, the program this year reflects our goal as researchers to learn what needs to be changed in education and how we can responsibly make it happen, relying on robust evidence and cultural understanding. This year we have extended invitations to nationally and internationally prominent scholars with new ideas, interventions, methodologies, and evaluative techniques. We sought researchers concerned with improving learning and instruction and the organization and management of our education system on an expedited path for change. Through these efforts we have worked collaboratively with the AERA divisions and SIGs and with science policy experts to create a program that seriously engages questions about the whys and hows of innovation in education and policy.

Building on many of the innovations that were introduced in prior years, we have selected twenty sessions to be live-streamed through the AERA website and to be available for later viewing. Wi-Fi is provided throughout the Convention Center and the Marriott Hotel, so bring your computers, iPads, and smartphones and be sure to alert other members to sessions that are especially relevant to them. In keeping with our emphasis on innovation, we have several sessions that highlight new techniques in interactive digital instruction. We have underscored to chairs, presenters, and discussants the importance of allowing more than enough time for scholarly debate and discussion.

The charitable fund that we have selected for this year is the AERA Minority Fellowship Program. Several of the scientific professional associations have similar programs. As we approach the AERA Centennial in 2016 we would like to expand the coffers of this initiative to help support educational opportunities for our minority students in an increasingly constrained economy. If every member gave \$5 toward this effort, we would raise well over \$100,000 this year.

Last year, we introduced the AERA-wide Awards Luncheon to celebrate the accomplishments of our colleagues in education research and policy. We are pleased to continue this initiative, after a highly successful inaugural event with close to 1,000 in attendance. Please join us in commemorating the achievements of the rising stars of our profession and those whose lifetime careers have been dedicated to education research in multiple areas.

Our program is designed to wrestle with the scientific challenges of our times, which clearly call for education research based on solid evidence, transparency, and replication. The choice of Philadelphia, a city of revolution and change, fits closely with our theme of innovation and underscores the need for collective resolve and action. Join us as we reflect upon and shape the prospects for education research in our rapidly expanding technological and global society.



Barbara Schneider

Barbara Schneider
Michigan State University
AERA President



Mark Berends

Mark Berends
University of Notre Dame
AERA Annual Meeting Program Chair