



Division H 2012 Outstanding Publications Competition

Division H: AERA's home for people dedicated to applied research, evaluation, and assessment in the schools.

What are the categories for entries?

Excellence will be recognized in each of the following entry categories:

- 1. Outstanding Dissertation**
- 2. Advances in Methodology**
- 3. Educational Program Evaluation**
- 4. Planning, Policy, or Management Research**
- 5. Summary Reports/NCLB Information Materials**
- 6. Small District Research, Evaluation, Assessment and Accountability Reports**

Individuals and organizations are able and encouraged to submit more than one entry up to a maximum of five per agency, institution, or school district. The same publication may not be entered into more than one category. Only entries that can be submitted electronically will be accepted.

This is an opportunity to share the many different ways we research and report applied research, evaluation, assessment, and accountability for our school systems. We encourage each member to submit at least one report and/or volunteer to serve as a participant on one of our judging panels.

Who will judge the entries?

This year we will invite the Division H 2011 award recipients to serve as the chairpersons to judge entries in their respective category. For categories with more than 20 entries, at the discretion of the Division H Year 2012 Publications Chairperson, a second panel may be appointed to ensure timeliness of reviews. An invitation also is extended to all Division H members to serve as panelists.

If you would like to serve as a panelist, please contact Vickie Cartwright at vickie.cartwright1@ocps.net or Audrey Beardsley at audrey.beardsley@asu.edu.

How will award recipients and entrants be recognized?

Depending on the quality of entries, as determined by the panel of judges in each category, the best submissions will be recognized for excellence as "First Place - Best in Category." Award recipients are recognized in many ways. They will be publicly announced and provided certificates during Division H's Annual Breakfast Meeting held in conjunction with AERA's Annual Meeting in April 2012 in Vancouver. All entries will be displayed at the Division H booth in the Exhibits Hall and will be made available to the Division H membership on a CD. Following the Annual Breakfast Meeting, winning entries will be noted with ribbons. Names and winning entries will be publicized on the website and in the Division H newsletter, *Reality Test*.

Requirements for Submission

Entries for submission must have been produced or published between November 30, 2010 and December 1, 2011 and not submitted for last year's competition. Entries in all categories will be judged on the technical quality and effectiveness with which they communicate to the target audience. Except for the categories of Outstanding Dissertation and Advances in Methodology, it is expected that reports will include:

- An abstract or summary not to exceed 200 words that provides a brief discussion of the study and major findings.
- A statement of the purpose of the study.
- A description of methodology used.
- A description of findings and results.
- An appropriate discussion of results, conclusions and/or recommendations based on the results.

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What are the descriptions for each category?

Following are descriptions for each category. Please be sure to select the correct category for your submission.

1. Dissertation/Thesis

Focus: Dissertation/thesis developed in and approved by a graduate school program. The paper must address a study in applied research, evaluation, assessment, or accountability within a school/school district setting. The entry must be accompanied by a 1-2 page transmittal letter from a committee advisor indicating the most noteworthy attributes in recommending the dissertation/thesis for this honor.

2. Advances in Methodology

Focus: Studies using innovative methodology and techniques. Outstanding reports in this category will advance the state of the art in program evaluation, assessment, accountability, or planning. They will explicate an innovation or methodological advance that is clearly discernible to the reader; including a description of methodology so that the study can be replicated; and discussion of special conditions that affect the use of the methodology.

3. Educational Program Evaluation

Focus: Evaluation studies in instructional arenas. This category focuses on evaluations developed to inform decision-makers. The study can highlight any curricular area, project, or program in a school system. It can be a formative implementation study, summative outcome study, or a combination of both.

4. Planning, Policy, and/or Management Research

Focus: Many organizations combine the planning function with the responsibility for policy and/or management. The research might relate to strategic

plans, school/district improvement plans, building action plans, or facilities plans. Outstanding reports will describe the action plan, the criteria for monitoring and measuring implementation, the data gathered, and the results. Policy studies provide evidence of the implications of actual or proposed changes in policy or reports might focus on management of a problem area in an educational organization. Examples of entries include cost analysis and feasibility studies, policy evaluations, or school improvement plans.

5. Summary Reports/NCLB Information Materials

Focus: Program evaluations, district or school testing results, and accountability documents are often re-packaged to make them accessible to a variety of non-specialist audiences. This is especially true for documents intended to convey school/district outcomes for boards of education, parents, or the larger community. This category invites submissions of documents and other artifacts that summarize data or research-based outcomes and/or information that explains NCLB activities and outcomes.

6. Small District Research, Evaluation, Assessment and Accountability Reports

Focus: Small school districts (operationally defined as those under 5000 enrollment) confront difficulties in dedicating resources for assessment, accountability, evaluation, and research activities. This category is reserved for reports of studies developed by researchers and evaluators in small school districts. The topic and purpose of documents submitted in this category are open. Researchers and evaluators

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from small school districts are encouraged to participate in all categories of the competition, but this category is especially reserved for their work.

publication to division members. No more than five submissions may be made by a single agency, institution, or school district.

How Do I Submit an Entry?

Vickie Cartwright and Audrey Beardsley will be coordinating the work of the Outstanding Publication Competition Committee. You will need to submit an electronic copy of your submission, any supporting material, and the submission form to Vickie Cartwright at vickie.cartwright@ocps.net. One printed copy of the publication, any support materials, and the submission form for use at the Division H Exhibits booth must also be mailed to:

It is VERY important to include the name of a contact person. ***All materials are to be postmarked and emailed on or before December 31, 2011*** and sent directly to the Division H Year 2012 Outstanding Publication Competition Committee Chairperson, Vickie Cartwright, as detailed above. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Vickie at (407)317-3201 or by email at vickie.cartwright@ocps.net or Audrey at (602) 561-4731 or audrey.beardsley@asu.edu.

Vickie Cartwright
Orange County Public Schools
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7th Floor Assessment
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Electronic copies should include the following information:

- ◆ MS Word form 2012 OPC Submission Form
Save the file using this naming convention:
OPC Cat X Submitter Name.doc; such as:
OPC Cat 1 Jane Doe.doc
- ◆ An electronic copy of the report in MS Word or PDF format.
- ◆ If applicable, include additional special material noted within the category requirements in MS Word or PDF format.
- ◆ For the Dissertation/Thesis category also include a 1-2 page transmittal letter from a committee advisor or member in MS Word or PDF format .

*By making this submission you are giving AERA Division H permission to distribute a copy of your

Winners for the 2012 Division H
Outstanding Publications
Competition will be announced
and a CD with all submissions
will be distributed at the 2012
Annual Meeting Division H
Breakfast/Business Meeting in
Vancouver
