Mid-Western Educational Research Association

Hyatt Regency | Milwaukee, Wisconsin
47th Annual Meeting | November 5-7, 2025

Call for Submissions

Submission Deadline: **11:59 p.m. on May 1, 2025**

mwera.org

The 2025 Annual Meeting of the Mid-Western Educational Research Association (MWERA) will be held at the beautiful Hyatt Regency in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. This is our first year at this scenic, stylish, well-situated conference location. The hotel will provide spacious and well-equipped meeting facilities and plenty of common spaces for networking with fellow MWERA members. It is an excellent location in downtown Milwaukee, within walking distance of restaurants, shopping, and a multitude of visitor sites.

We invite all scholars, professionals, students, practitioners, and administrators to join us in a friendly and collegial atmosphere as we discuss the issues and problems important to us as educational professionals. There will be opportunities to learn, reflect, make new connections, and renew old acquaintances. Prepare to be energized by attending MWERA!

Conference Theme

Navigating the Future: Harnessing Artificial Intelligence in Education for Research, Teaching, and Leadership

This year's theme centers on artificial intelligence (AI), a transformative force with the potential to reshape societies—from how we manage daily tasks to how industries and systems operate. In particular, the impact of AI on the education system requires critical discussion, exploration, and innovation. AI tools, including machine learning algorithms, adaptive learning platforms, and conversational AI like ChatGPT, offer opportunities to enhance educational excellence and equity. These tools support curriculum design, personalized learning, advanced research methodologies, and policy development. However, alongside these opportunities, AI also presents various challenges and concerns.

As some embrace the potential of AI in education, it is crucial to address the ethical implications that arise. Issues such as data privacy, bias, and the digital divide require a thorough examination to ensure that the benefits of AI are distributed equitably. Educators, policymakers, and technologists must collaborate to create frameworks prioritizing transparency and inclusiveness in AI applications. By doing so, we can empower all learners to access and benefit from these innovative tools, regardless of their background. This proactive approach will help foster a future where AI enhances educational experiences while safeguarding fundamental rights and promoting fairness across all educational environments.

The 2025 MWERA Annual Conference invites attendees to discuss and debate the role of AI in educational research, teaching, learning, leadership, and policy. As with all MWERA annual meetings, ***submissions need not address the conference theme***. We encourage broad participation from all areas of educational research. *[This description was created with the assistance of ChatGPT (OpenAI, 2024) to exemplify AI's creative potential.]*

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General Information

The MWERA Annual Conference primarily consists of presentations selected through a blind peer-review process. It also features invited speakers, symposia, panel discussions, special sessions for graduate students, new faculty, and new members, a keynote luncheon, and other social events open to all attendees.

Whether or not you plan to submit a paper to present, attending the annual conferences will enhance your professional development and offer leadership opportunities by becoming more involved with the MWERA organization.

Anyone registered for the annual meeting is welcome to attend all sessions in the conference program. Plan to attend as many sessions as possible. MWERA is a conference well known for its members' active participation in sessions, asking questions, and offering expert feedback.

Please share this call for submissions with your colleagues and students. MWERA is a friendly atmosphere for graduate students and new faculty.

Membership and Registration

All attendees and presenters must register and join the association. **Membership and conference registration for the annual meeting can be purchased at https://mwera.square.site/.** The program committee can be contacted at mweraconference@gmail.com. You can contact the executive director at mwera.ed@gmail.com for specific questions about membership or registration.

Guidelines for Submissions

Submissions must be submitted electronically using the submission process available through the meeting website. ***http://www.mwera.org***

Although MWERA membership is not required to submit a paper, all presenters must be members to present at the conference. No one person should appear as a presenter on more than three submissions to promote broader participation in the program.

Papers presented at MWERA are expected to be **original scholarship** conducted by the author(s) that has yet to be presented at any other meeting or published in any journal.

Promoting commercially available products or services beyond appropriate scholarly or scientific communication violates MWERA policy. Individuals who wish to have an exhibit to display educationally related products or services should contact the program committee.

Deadline for Submissions

Submissions must be submitted by **11:59 pm on May 1, 2025**. All submissions received by this deadline are guaranteed to be reviewed. Please inform your division chairs if you plan to submit multiple papers to a single division.

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Criteria for Submission Review

MWERA uses a **blind review process**. Submissions must be received without author identification. Submissions will be reviewed using the following criteria:

A. Importance and originality of the research topic.
B. Relevance of the topic to the Division and to MWERA membership. Relevance to the conference theme is encouraged but not required.
C. Contribution to research and education.
D. Framework (theoretical/conceptual/practical rationale, literature review, grounding).
E. Analyses and interpretations (significance, implications, relationship of conclusions to findings, generalizability, or usefulness).
F. Overall writing quality of submission (clarity of writing, logic, and organization).

Content Required for All Submissions

Submissions must include an abstract and summary that follow the guidelines below. If you have questions or concerns, contact your division chair. The following pages define session types.

1. **Abstract: Papers, Posters, & All Other Sessions**
   The abstract should be 100-150 words.

2. **Summary: Papers and Posters**
   Submission summaries should be **approximately 2,500 words or less.** Summaries for **paper, poster, and research in progress** submission should 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.

   Summary: Symposiums, Workshops, Alternative Sessions, and Best Practices Forums
   Submission summaries should 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 audience involvement. Limited program space may be available for these types of sessions.

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Expectations of Presenters
All persons, including graduate students, presenting and participating at the annual meeting are expected to be **members in good standing** and **to pre-register for the conference**. Presenters whose papers have been accepted to a session with a session chair and session discussant *must upload a completed version of their conference paper* through the MWERA conference website *by October 17, 2025*. Papers not uploaded by this date may be dropped from the program. Presenters should provide some form of handout to session attendees and a way for attendees to access the full paper. Presenters must also attend sessions to demonstrate good-faith collegiality and professional courtesy.

Authors of accepted submissions 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 and to notify the division chairs in advance.

MWERA will provide projectors and screens in presentation rooms. **Presenters needing additional computer or audiovisual equipment (e.g., speakers or videoconferencing technology) must make their <u>own</u> arrangements**. Please remember to bring the appropriate adapter/dongle for your computer.

MWERA reserves the right to reproduce and distribute summaries and abstracts of all accepted submissions, including making such works available in a printed program, through the MWERA website, and in promotional or social media. *As a condition of acceptance, all authors of papers accepted to the annual meeting explicitly grant MWERA the right to reproduce their work's summary and abstract in these ways.* Such limited distribution does not preclude any subsequent publication of the work by the author(s).

Session Descriptors and Format Descriptions

Use the approved MWERA descriptors when completing your submissions. These descriptors are located on the "Annual Meeting" tab of the MWERA website (*http://www.mwera.org/*) and as part of the submission process.

Paper Presentation
Paper sessions allow presenters to make short, relatively formal presentations summarizing their completed research to an audience. Three to five papers on related topics are grouped into a 1-hour, 10-minute session. Each paper presentation is allowed approximately 10 to 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 time for comments, synthesis, and constructive feedback. A session chair moderates the entire session. Presenters are encouraged to provide some form of handout to session attendees and a way for attendees to access the full paper.

NOTE: If you do not have complete results or conclusions for your research, you <u>must</u> submit a Research in Progress paper indicating that your data analysis is in progress.

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Poster

Poster sessions are intended to provide opportunities for interested individuals to dialogue with the presenter(s) about their completed research. Presenters are provided with an area to display a poster, ancillary handouts, and/or other table-top A/V materials. Interested individuals can move around with these poster presentations as they wish. Presenters are encouraged to provide some form of handout for session attendees and a way for attendees to access the full paper.

Research in Progress

Research in progress allows individual researchers, particularly graduate students and early-career scholars, to submit evidence-based works that still need to be fully realized or completed but have enough progression and fidelity to warrant dissemination and discussion among peers. Research in progress sessions also provide presenters with feedback on their research to enhance its potential for publication.

Symposium/ Panel Presentation

A symposium/panel is intended to provide an opportunity to examine specific problems or topics from a variety of perspectives. Organizers are expected to identify the topic or issue, locate the individual speakers who will participate, prepare any necessary materials, and facilitate the session. It is suggested, though optional, that the speakers or the organizer 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 time for the organizer to help participants develop or improve their skills in a particular area (e.g., how to provide clinical supervision, using the latest tools or Apps, or conducting an advanced statistical analysis). Organizers may request 1½ to 3 hours and 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 various types. Submissions for alternative sessions must include a brief rationale for the proposed alternative. They 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 essential 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 related topics to facilitate discussion among the groups and audience. Presenters are expected to make available copies of handouts on which the best practices session focused.

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Submission Reviewers, Session Chairs, and Session Discussants

Reviewers, chairs, and discussants play essential roles in the success of the annual conference. Please consider volunteering on the conference website. Anyone can volunteer to review submissions, regardless of membership status or intentions to attend the conference. Session chairs and discussants facilitate the paper sessions during the event. Individuals in these roles must be MWERA members and register for the conference.

MWERA Isadore Newman Dissertation Award

Named for a past MWERA president, mentor, and contributor, this travel award is intended to encourage and recognize outstanding dissertation research appropriate to the field. Studies embracing traditional and non-traditional conceptualizations and methods are welcome. Dissertations completed and successfully defended in the last three years (2023-2025) are eligible for consideration. Submissions for this award should be sent to mwera.ed@gmail.com. The full dissertation and proof of successful completion are required. For more information, please visit the MWERA awards page (https://www.mwera.org/awards.html). If applying for this award, do *not* also submit through the regular conference submission process. Submissions that do not win will be considered for inclusion in the MWERA conference as papers to be presented in appropriate divisions.

MWERA Distinguished Paper Award

Each year, the State and Regional Educational Research Association (SRERA) special interest group of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) invites its member state and regional affiliates to present one distinguished paper at the annual spring AERA meeting. These papers are automatically accepted for presentation and do not undergo additional review. MWERA will recognize one overall distinguished paper to submit for presentation at the next AERA Annual Meeting. The award recipient is expected to present the paper at AERA and receive a $350 stipend to defray the registration cost. To be considered for this award, presenters must upload a full paper to the conference web portal before the MWERA conference.

Publication Opportunities

The Mid-Western Educational Researcher (MWER) is a peer-reviewed, open-access scholarly journal that publishes research articles examining educational issues and practices, book and media reviews, commentaries, and articles that address areas such as mentorship and teacher research. It began publication in 1988 and moved to an online format in 2012 (ISSN 2375-7876).

MWER seeks strong manuscripts addressing a wide range of topics in education. The journal publishes quantitative, qualitative, mixed methods, meta-analysis and meta-synthesis studies. MWER accepts submissions in six different categories: feature articles, graduate student scholarship, voices from the classroom, commentaries, book/media reviews, and mentoring corner. The journal also periodically solicits proposals for special issues and special sections of an issue. In addition, such proposals can be submitted at any time, regardless of whether there is an open call. See the journal's Aims and Scope for more detailed information. For questions, contact the MWER Editors at MWER1922@gmail.com.

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Important Dates

Submission Deadline:	May 1, 2025	Hotel Reservations:	October 5, 2025
Notification of Decision:	August 1, 2025	Upload full papers by:	October 17, 2025
Early Bird Registration Ends:	October 5, 2025	**MWERA Annual Meeting:**	**November 5-7, 2025**

Division Chair Contact Information

Questions about submissions, the process, or the meeting in general should be directed to the division chairs. Their contact information is below.

A – Administration, Organization, and Leadership

This division is concerned with research, theory, development, and improving practice in the organization and administration of education.

Nathan Schilling
Concordia University - Chicago
Nathan.schilling@cuchicago.edu

Co-Chair: Donna Taylor
Columbus City Schools
dtaylor4@columbus.k12.oh.us

B – Curriculum Studies

This division concerns curriculum and instructional practice, theory, and research.

Christy Horner
Bowling Green State University
cgallet@bgsu.edu

Co-Chair: Joe Elliott
Elmhurst University
joseph.elliott@elmhurst.edu

C – Learning & Instruction

This division concerns theory and research on human abilities, learning styles, individual differences, problem-solving, and other factors.

Terry Stockton
Grand Valley State University
stocktte@gvsu.edu

Co-Chair: Eric Junco
Northern Illinois University
ejunco1@niu.edu

D – Measurement & Research Methodology

This division concerns measurement, statistical methods, and quantitative and qualitative research methods applied to education.

Ximena Burgin
Northern Illinois University
xrecald1@niu.edu

Co-Chair: Nina Adjanin
Northwest Missouri State University
adanin@nwmissouri.edu

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E – Counseling & Human Development
This division is concerned with understanding human development, special education, and applying and improving counseling theories, techniques, and training strategies.

Eric Dimmitt	Co-Chair; Chandra hayes-Denson
Marquette University	Sealey Elementary Leon County Schools
eric.dimmitt@marquette.edu	hayes.chandra5@gmail.com

F – History & Historiography
This division is concerned with the findings and methodologies of historical research in education.

Leanne Kang	Co-Chair: James Alverson
Grand Valley State University	Northern Kentucky University
kangl@gvsu.edu	alversonj1@nku.edu

G – Social Context of Education
This division concerns theory, practice, and research on social, moral, affective, and motivational characteristics and development, especially multicultural perspectives.

Christy Horner	Co-Chair: Joe Elliott
Bowling Green State University	Elmhurst University
cgallet@bgsu.edu	joseph.elliott@elmhurst.edu

H – Research, Evaluation, & Assessment in Schools
This division is concerned with research and evaluation to improve school practice, including program planning and implementation.

Audrey Roberts	Co-Chair: Gordon Brooks
Bowling Green State University	Ohio University
audrobe@bgsu.edu	brooksg@ohio.edu

I – Education in the Professions
This division concerns educational practice, research, and evaluation in the professions (e.g., medicine, nursing, public health, business, law, and engineering).

Eric Dimmitt	Co-Chair: Chandra hayes-Denson
Marquette University	Sealey Elementary Leon County Schools
eric.dimmitt@marguette.edu	hayes.chandra5@gmail.com

J – Postsecondary Education
This division concerns a broad range of two-year, four-year, and graduate education issues.

Mathew Ison	Co-Chair: Angie Miller
Northern Illinois University	Indiana University Bloomington
mison@niu.edu	anglmill@iu.edu

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K – Teaching & Teacher Education

This division concerns theory, practice, and research on teaching at all levels and in-service and pre-service teacher education, including field experiences and mentoring.

Terry Stockton
Grand Valley State University
stocktte@gvsu.edu

Co-Chair: Eric Junco
Northern Illinois University
ejunco1@niu.edu

L – Educational Policy & Politics

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

Andrew Benson
University of Cincinnati
bensonag@mail.uc.edu

Co-Chair: Nicole Shilling
University of Findlay
nicole.schilling@findlay.edu