

The Washington Educational Research Association

presents

The 38th Annual Spring Conference

“Aiming High to Close the Gap”

March 24-25, 2010

Seattle Airport Hilton Hotel Conference Center
17620 Pacific Highway South
Seattle, WA 98188

Plan now to join your colleagues from across the state for this outstanding professional development event. This conference will be a two-day event, rather than a three-day event that has been typical the past several years. The conference will feature a nationally known keynote speaker, a full-day Reading Institute, and two days of breakout presentations sharing current research and best practices in education from across the state. There will be outstanding presentations designed for teachers, principals, curriculum specialists, central office staff, researchers and post-secondary educators.

Wednesday’s keynote presenter will be **Dr. Lorrie Shepard**, past president of the National Academy of Education. Lorrie Shepard is a professor in the School of Education at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Her research focuses on psychometrics and the use and misuse of tests in educational settings. Dr. Shepard is a past president of the American Educational Research Association and past president of the National Council on Measurement in Education. She was elected to the National Academy of Education in 1992 and she has been editor of the *Journal of Educational Measurement* and the *American Educational Research Journal* and interim editor of *Educational Researcher*. In 1999 she won NCME’s Award for Career Contributions to Educational Measurement. Dr. Shepard currently serves on the National Research Council’s Board on Testing and Assessment.

Thursday’s conference will feature a Reading Institute, providing in-depth, practical information for teachers and principals on reading strategies and progress monitoring assessments. **Dr. Jan Hasbrouck**, educational consultant, researcher, trainer, and author in the field of reading, will be conducting the all-day Reading Institute. On Wednesday and Thursday the conference will offer more than 40 breakout sessions on topics related to the conference theme. The WERA annual membership meeting will be held on Wednesday during the conference.

WEDNESDAY, March 24	THURSDAY, March 25
Keynoter: Dr. Lorrie Shepard, U. of Colorado	Conference Announcements: 8:30 a.m.
AM: Breakout session 1	AM: Breakout session 4 and 5
Lunch: WERA Annual Membership Meeting	Lunch: WERA Election Results and Awards
PM: Breakout sessions 2 and 3	PM: Breakout session 6

FREE CLOCK HOURS will be available at the registration desk. **Please complete your registration early to guarantee yourself a spot and to get the lowest conference rates.**

2010 Spring Conference Optional Programs

The optional Spring Conference program offers one Reading Institute plus an assessment directors' network meeting. Lunch is provided both days. *Pre-registration for these two optional programs is required* (see form on next page). Continental breakfast and check in begin at 7:30 a.m. both days.

Wednesday, March 24, Afternoon Meeting of Assessment Directors

1. Meeting of District Assessment Directors Network (Nancy Katims, Edmonds School District)

This is a scheduled network meeting of school district assessment directors. This group plans its own agenda and conducts business and discussion under Nancy's leadership.

WEDNESDAY, March 24

Network Meeting: 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.

(PM Break: 2:15 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.)

Thursday, March 25, Reading Institute

2. Response to Intervention: Using Data from Reading Assessments for Professional Decision-Making (Educators as Physicians) Presenter: Dr. Jan Hasbrouck

In this age of mounting educational accountability and implementation of the RTI framework, educators everywhere are being asked to administer ever-increasing numbers of reading assessments to their students. Teachers screen students to determine who may need additional assistance in learning to read, diagnose students to determine their skills strengths and weaknesses for planning instruction, and monitor students' progress to determine if their skills are showing improvement. All this testing can take a lot of time and requires a lot of paperwork. It certainly has an impact on the amount of time teachers have available for planning and instruction. Many educators are becoming frustrated with this situation, and wonder if all this testing is really helping our students.

This seminar is designed to help teachers, reading specialists, instructional coaches, supervisors and principals take a close look at WHY these assessments are being used, HOW to select and administer the most time-efficient and valuable assessments, and—most important of all—how to USE the data to make key instructional decisions that can truly help us provide the best possible reading instruction to all students. In the same way that we expect our physicians to make their decisions about our health and wellness by using the best information available, educators must use assessment tools to inform and guide our professional decisions regarding students' academic "health and wellness". But because it is instruction—not testing—that is the most important task of schools, we must select and use reading assessments as efficiently and effectively as possible.

THURSDAY, March 25, Institute Agenda

Continental breakfast: 7:30 – 8:30 a.m.

Reading Institute Morning: 8:30 - 11:30 a.m.

(AM Break: 10:00 – 10:15 a.m.)

Lunch: 11:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Reading Institute Afternoon: 12:30 p.m. - 3:30 p.m.

(PM Break: 2:00 p.m. – 2:15 p.m.)

Hotel Information: Make reservations at the Airport Hilton at \$184/day -- single or double. *This rate is guaranteed until March 5 unless the WERA block fills prior to that time.* Call the hotel directly at (206) 244-4800; use 1-800 HILTONS; or link from www.wera-web.org. Be sure to mention the WERA Conference if calling on the phone to get this negotiated rate.

REGISTRATION PROCEDURES: Credit card registration is now online. Go to www.wera-web.org, find the WERA Spring Conference, and complete the registration process. You will not need to complete or mail this paper form. To register with purchase order or check, complete this registration form and include it with the purchase order or check submitted to WERA at the address below. Complete one form per registrant. There is no on-site registration.

Refund policy: 100% before February 15; 50% February 15 – March 14. **There will be no refunds after March 14.**

WERA ANNUAL SPRING CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM March 24-25, 2010

Name _____ Job Title _____

Employer _____ Work Phone (_____) _____ - _____

Address _____ City _____ ST _____ ZIP _____

Email _____ Fax _____ Preferred first name for nametag _____

CONFERENCE FEES: Use the appropriate column below based on your membership status. Circle the fees you are using. Non-members may join WERA for \$25 by paying membership dues now. Note that fees increase over time. Circle the appropriate fee in the member or non-member column, depending on the event** and time you are registering. *Full-time students not currently working* can join WERA for \$10 and attend for half the member rate with a recommendation from an active WERA member sponsor.

Circle the applicable amount(s)

Join WERA	Annual Membership dues	\$25			
MEMBERS with 2009-10 WERA dues paid:			NON-MEMBERS:		
Conference, not including Reading Institute Thursday.	Before February 15 Feb. 15 – March 14 After March 14	\$225 \$250 \$275	Conference, not including Reading Institute Thursday.	Before February 15 Feb. 15 – March 14 After March 14	\$255 \$280 \$305
Conference, Including Reading Institute Thursday.	Before February 15 Feb. 15 – March 14 After March 14	\$255 \$280 \$305	Conference, Including Reading Institute Thursday.	Before February 15 Feb. 15 – March 14 After March 14	\$285 \$310 \$335
Thursday Reading Institute only - not coming Wednesday.	Before February 15 Feb. 15 – March 14 After March 14	\$130 \$155 \$180	Thursday Reading Institute only - not coming Wednesday.	Before February 15 Feb. 15 – March 14 After March 14	\$160 \$185 \$210

Your total fee is the sum of the circled items. **ENTER TOTAL FEE HERE** _____. This should match the amount on your purchase order or check. Continental breakfast and lunch are included both days in conference fees.

**** For the Optional Programs, pre-registration into specific sessions is required. Circle the special session(s) you will attend:**

Wednesday, March 24
Afternoon #1 Assessment Directors Network Meeting

Thursday, March 25
Morning and Afternoon #2 Reading Institute

Enclosed is my check. (# _____) or Attached is my Purchase Order. (# _____)

Special Needs: Check if you need vegetarian meals.

Return to: WERA Spring Conference, P.O. Box 64489, University Place, WA 98464
For more information, contact Leonard Winchell, 253-564-4816 or LenWWA@aol.com

To fax, send this completed registration page **and** your purchase order to 253-564-4816.

Washington Educational Research Association
P.O. Box 64489
University Place, WA 98464

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**WERA Conference Information
Open Immediately!**

Conference Schedule

Wednesday, March 24: Registration and continental breakfast from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

8:30: Keynote by *Dr. Lorrie Shepard*. Dr. Shepard is past president of the National Academy of Education. Lorrie Shepard is a professor in the School of Education at the University of Colorado at Boulder. Her research focuses on psychometrics and the use and misuse of tests in educational settings. Dr. Shepard is a past president of the American Educational Research Association and past president of the National Council on Measurement in Education. She was elected to the National Academy of Education in 1992 and she has been editor of the *Journal of Educational Measurement* and the *American Educational Research Journal* and interim editor of *Educational Researcher*.

10:15-11:30: Breakout Session 1

11:30-12:45: Lunch and WERA Annual Membership Meeting

1:00-3:45: Breakout Sessions 2 and 3

Thursday, March 25: Registration and continental breakfast from 7:30 to 8:30 a.m.

8:30: Conference Announcements, Reading Institute begins

8:45-11:30: Breakout Sessions 4 and 5

11:30-12:30: Lunch, including WERA Election Results and Awards

12:45-2:00: Breakout Session 6 2:00: Conference ends

3:30 Reading Institute concludes

For additional information: Leonard Winchell, WERA Executive Secretary, 253-564-4816. Email LenWWA@aol.com