**WERA DISTINGUISHED PAPER AWARD**

**Purpose:** Each year the State and Regional Educational Research Association (SRERA) consortium of 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 are not required to undergo the lengthy and competitive nomination process that other AERA papers undergo. The WERA Distinguished Paper Award recognizes an outstanding paper related to an important educational topic to be presented at the AERA annual meeting. This award promotes and recognizes important educational research taking place in the state.

**Nominations and Selection:** To nominate a paper for the award, a person must send the following two documents in electronic form to the WERA Executive Secretary by October 1 of each year. Self-nominations are accepted.

- A cover letter listing the author(s) and affiliation(s), a brief summary of the paper, a statement about its educational significance, and the author(s) contact information (email, address, phone number).
- One copy of the paper.

Example papers for this award include:

- Papers presented at a prior WERA conference
- Papers by recent recipients of the WERA Research or Product awards
- Papers written to meet graduate school requirements
- Other research and evaluation reports or papers.

The awards committee of the WERA Board will review each nominated paper and may select one to be recognized for this award based on its significance and quality. The author(s) of the paper will be announced during the WERA December Conference. WERA will notify SRERA of the paper’s title and author(s). The recipient(s) will have one year to make plans to attend the AERA conference the following year. With the author’s permission, WERA will also forward the paper for consideration in the WERA journal.

**Award and Expectations:**
WERA will provide up to $1500 for any recipient of a Distinguished Paper Award to be used to defray costs to attend and present their paper at the AERA national meeting. Costs are reimbursed based on receipts submitted by the recipient. The award recipient will also have the opportunity and is expected to present the paper at the AERA national meeting that occurs about 4 months after the award announcement. The paper will be included in a session organized by SRERA (several papers from other state or regional affiliates will also be presented at that session). SRERA will honor the winner with a certificate at AERA, and the recipient of the award will receive a plaque at the WERA December conference.