



The Standard Deviation

Newsletter of the Washington Educational Research Association (WERA)
June 2015

<http://www.wera-web.org>

President's Column



"Attitude is Everything!"

There is certainly a plethora of issues and new initiatives required of us in our schools today that could easily lead a group of educators to succumb to the pressure and chose a negative attitude. However, I chose to be positive!

Here's why, it's more fun to work with positive people. When the people we work with are focused on solutions instead of complaints it makes the work more enjoyable, we get things done and we usually get better.

A positive attitude promotes hope! As leaders we must promote hope among our colleagues. We are not helpless, the decisions and actions that we chose are in our control. Our reaction to others and circumstances is our choice.

This is exactly why I made a three-year volunteer commitment to WERA! WERA exists to provide a forum for discussions about solutions. Next year, WERA will again be offering opportunities for educators to convene to discuss solutions for the Smarter Balanced mandates, Highly Capable requirements and Preschool through 3rd grade (P-3) sharing. WERA is excited to host its annual winter conference where our theme will be "Learning Leading Linking: Promoting Growth for All;" again promoting conversations that are solution based.

We can do this...with a positive attitude focused on solutions.

Attitude is Everything!

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Calendar of Events

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming WERA events:

WERA/OSPI Annual Conference: "Learning, Leading, Linking: Promoting Growth for All"

Dates: December 9-11, 2015
Place: Hilton Seattle Airport Hotel and Conference Center

December 10: Preconference with half-day workshops
P-3 track all three days

Keynote speaker, Thursday: Pat Wasley
Keynote speaker, Friday: Timothy Shanahan
Registration opens in mid-September

Smarter Balanced Assessment Symposium

Date: February 10, 2016
Location: Hilton Seattle Airport and Conference Center
Registration will open in January

P-3 Symposium

Date: March 10, 2016
Location: Hilton Seattle Airport and Conference Center
Registration will open in January



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Update on Highly Capable (HiCap) SIG

The HiCap SIG supported districts in this first year of implementing the new highly capable state law. Through the K-20 system, we were able to reach out to districts across the state and connect with Kristina Johnstone, Highly Capable Program Supervisor from OSPI. We covered topics such as identification, program evaluation, and professional development to name just a few. Kristina provided regular updates and answered questions from the group. We will continue with the HiCap SIG next year and are currently pinning down dates. Kristina is excited to join us again next year and has appreciated the feedback the group has provided. Stay tuned through the WERA website or the HiCap wiggle for 2015-16 information.

WERA Board Election Results

The new 2015 Board members are:

PRESIDENT ELECT

Teena McDonald

Clinical Assistant Professor and Program Coordinator
Washington State University

After spending 34 years in public education as a teacher, assessment director, assistant principal, principal, federal programs director, and school superintendent I am now at Washington State University. In my current role I am the director of the Spokane/Wenatchee field based principal preparation program, and am on the faculty for the field based superintendent program and our international principal preparation program. I have my Ed.D. from Washington State University. I attended WERA conferences regularly when I was an assessment director and understand the important role that WERA plays in helping educators stay current on research and developments in education.

BOARD MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Cindy Duncan

Assistant Superintendent for Academic Achievement
North Central Educational Service District, Wenatchee, WA

This is my 30th year in education and I have been an avid consumer of WERA publications, resources and conferences in my different roles in education including: prevention/intervention, school social work, special populations, and administration. In my current role I work closely with OSPI and the Association of Educational Service Districts (AESD) as we implement State Standards including the CCSS and NGSS and the new Smarter Balanced Assessment and the new evaluation system. I advocate for an active partnership with WERA and the ESDs because I believe our ESD content and student support specialists can inform the field as we continue to learn from each other about effective and innovative practices. I look forward to supporting high-quality professional development opportunities, networking opportunities and the excellent resources WERA members have come to rely on and expect.



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WERA Board Election Results

BOARD MEMBER-AT-LARGE

Paul Stern

Analyst

Vancouver Public Schools

I have been an active WERA member for 15 years. In that time I have served two years on the WERA Board as a member-at-large, created a "MAP Users Group" for districts using the assessment to evaluate student learning, served on a conference planning committee and presented at many conferences. As a member of the research, evaluation and assessment team in Vancouver, I am responsible for monitoring and reporting on assessment results, on-time graduation, early warning systems, and tools to monitor student success. I appreciate the learning and collegial relationships that I have developed through WERA.

Please welcome them to the Board!

Call for Papers for the WERA Educational Journal (WEJ)

We are currently seeking papers and other submissions for the November 2015 issue of the *WERA Educational Journal*. The WEJ is a collection of peer-reviewed academic papers, professional reports, research reviews, book reviews, essays, and commentaries of general significance and interest to the Northwest education research and practitioner community. The WEJ is issued twice a year (November and May). Papers for the November 2015 issue are due by July 15. Papers for the May 2016 are due January 15.

Topics in the WEJ cover a wide range of areas of educational research and related disciplines. These include but are not limited to issues related to

- early childhood education
- curriculum and instruction
- state and national standards
- professional development
- special populations (e.g., gifted, ELLs, students with disabilities)
- assessment results covering various content areas
- early warning indicators
- social and emotional issues
- school and district effectiveness
- teacher and principal evaluation
- education finance and policy
- educational technology
- educational leadership

Papers should be of interest to a wide range of educators in the Northwest. Condensed, reader-friendly versions of dissertations and theses are encouraged.

For more information about the WEJ and its submissions, see the [Submission Guidelines](#) posted on the WERA Web site. If you have questions about the process or about possible submissions, please e-mail Pete Bylsma, the WEJ co-editor, at WEJeditor@gmail.com



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Call for Proposals for WERA Research Grants

Are you studying an educational issue in the State of Washington? Do you have an idea for a study but lack the funding to make it happen? Now's your chance!

WERA sponsors competitive grants (maximum award of \$5,000) for studies of educational issues. Because WERA feels strongly about improving and supporting all aspects of education, the grants awarded are associated with studies that support work focusing on everything from classroom assessment to the evaluation of education programs. Please consider a grant application if you are a current WERA member who has a project or study that fits the research and evaluation proposals WERA wants to support with a financial award.

WERA is still accepting applications for grants. For more information on the application format, requirements and submission procedure, please visit <http://www.wera-web.org/grants/grant-award-procedures/>. If you have questions about the process or about possible submissions, please e-mail Jack Monpas-Huber, Research Grant Committee Chair, at weraoffice@gmail.com. We look forward to hearing from you!

The mission of the Washington Educational Research Association is to improve the professional practice of educators engaged in instruction, assessment, evaluation, and research.

WERA Services

- *WERA provides professional development through conferences, publications, and seminars.*
- *WERA provides forums to explore thoughtful approaches and a variety of views and issues in education.*
- *WERA provides consultation and advice to influence educational policy regarding instruction, assessment, evaluation, and research.*



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The WERA Board, 2015-16

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The Standard Deviation is published spring, winter, and fall as an online newsletter. Submissions are welcomed from WERA members and others. Kindly submit articles for consideration using APA format to weraoffice@gmail.com. Previous issues and submission guidelines are available online at <http://www.wera-web.org>