

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

President's Column



WERA Colleagues,
Welcome to this issue of the Standard Deviation. Your WERA Board is working hard to continue to provide high-quality professional development opportunities. I want to highlight a few of them. **First**, our Winter Conference is just a few weeks away, on December 5-7, 2018. Our theme this year is *Disrupting the Status Quo: Ensuring Equity,*

Engagement and Achievement for all Washington Learners.

The conference will feature keynoters Dr. Adeyemi Stembridge on Thursday morning and Dr. John King on Friday. Dr. Stembridge is a coach to teachers and administrators with a focus on the design of culturally responsive systems and learning experiences for students. Dr. King is President and CEO of The Education Trust, an organization that seeks to identify and close opportunity and achievement gaps. Prior to joining the Education Trust, Dr. King served as the Secretary of Education under President Obama.

Additional information about the conference is available at <https://wera.memberclicks.net/wera-ospi-annual-conference-2018>.

Second, Save The Date! On February 7, 2019, WERA will host a one-day symposium, focused on Continuous Improvement. Our theme is *Learning to Improve: Using Improvement Science to drive student success*. We will share more details through emails and the WERA-Connect Listserv as we get closer to the date.

Third, your WERA Board is also focused on creating a series of Webinars for our members. We're calling them "Hot Topics", and the first one was held in early October about using student perception survey data to improve instruction. We're hoping to offer another 2-3 no-cost webinars during the academic year. If you have ideas for a topic you'd like to learn more about or something you'd like to share, please reach out to me or to our Executive Secretary.

We look forward to seeing you at one of our events this year and thank you for supporting WERA! We love what we do to support you in your practice. Your participation and membership are invaluable to this organization.

Thank you!

Paul Stern
WERA President

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Upcoming Events

WERA/OSPI Annual Conference

Pre-Conference Workshops December 5, 2018
Conference December 6-7, 2018
Hilton Seattle Airport Hotel and Conference Center
Register at the WERA web site:
<http://www.wera-web.org>

For more information see page 2

Continuous Improvement Symposium

February 7, 2019
Theme: *Learning to improve: Using Improvement Science to drive student success.*

Elections! Have you thought about serving on the WERA Board? We'd love to have you join us. Nominations for President-Elect and two At-Large positions are currently open. Our on-line election is in February.

Please reach out to a current board member <https://www.wera-web.org/officers> with your questions.

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



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Newsletter of the Washington Educational Research Association (WERA)
November 2018

December WERA/OSPI Annual Conference 2018

Disrupting the Status Quo: Ensuring Equity, Engagement and Achievement for all Washington Learners

Keynote Speakers:

Dr. Adeyemi "Yemi" Stemberidge

Dr. John B. King, Jr.

For the 34th year, WERA brings together educational leaders, teachers, and researchers from across the Northwest to explore practical applications of new research and evaluation studies.

More than 65 breakout sessions to choose from in 13 strands including...District and State Assessments, College and Career Readiness, Early Learning, Educator Growth and Development, General Education Content, and Learning Supports (including Services for ELs, Highly Capable, Special Education, MTSS).

Registration now open: www.wera-web.org/wera-ospi-annual-conference-2018

More information about WERA may be found at www.wera-web.org.

Annual Conference Keynote Speakers

Adeyemi Stemberidge, PhD is an educational consultant specializing in equity-focused technical assistance. He is a coach and thought-partner to teachers and administrators with a particular interest in the design of culturally responsive systems and learning experiences for students. Dr. Stemberidge has been a technical assistance provider in applied research centers at New York University, Teachers College (Columbia University) and American University in Washington, DC where he has worked directly with school districts across the country to develop strategies for closing achievement gaps and improving systems for equitable outcomes. Dr. Stemberidge has taught in K-12 schools and also at the undergraduate and graduate level. He holds a PhD in Educational Leadership from the School of Education, Teaching, and Health at American University, a Master of Arts degree from Old Dominion University in Literature, and a Bachelor of Arts degree from Norfolk State University in English. His hometown is the Bronx, New York. Follow him on Twitter @DrYemiS.

John B. King Jr. is the president and CEO of The Education Trust, a national nonprofit organization that seeks to identify and close opportunity and achievement gaps, from preschool through college. King served as the U.S. Secretary of Education from 2016 to 2017 as a member of President Barack Obama's administration. In tapping him to lead the U.S. Department of Education, President Obama called King "an exceptionally talented educator," citing his commitment to "preparing every child for success" and his lifelong dedication to education as a teacher, principal, and leader of schools and school systems. He holds a Bachelor of Arts in government from Harvard University, a J.D. from Yale Law School, as well as a Master of Arts in the teaching of social studies and a doctorate in education from Teachers College at Columbia University. King lives in Takoma Park, Md., with his wife (a former kindergarten and first-grade teacher) and his two daughters, who attend local public schools. You can follow King on Twitter via @JohnBKing.



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Call for Papers for the WERA Educational Journal (WEJ)

The *WEJ* is WERA's peer-reviewed journal that is published twice a year (in November and May) and is available to the general public on WERA's website at: wera.memberclicks.net/the-wera-educational-journal. The first issue was published in July 2010 and the issues have grown in length and sophistication over the years. The writing style is easy to read, the articles have different formats (e.g., academic papers, reprints of existing noteworthy reports, book reviews) and use both quantitative and qualitative methods, and the topics covered have practical applications for WERA's members. In some cases, dissertations are summarized into the journal's format. Here are a few of the topics covered in the *WEJ*:

- 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
- Educator preparation

The November 2018 issue will be available soon. If you want to submit a paper for the *WEJ*, see the submission guidelines posted on the WERA website at: wera.memberclicks.net/the-wera-educational-journal. The deadline for the May 2019 issue is January 15, 2019. If you have questions about the process or about possible submissions, email the *WEJ* editor at WEJeditor@gmail.com.

Call for Nominations for WERA Grants and Awards

The Washington Educational Research Association (WERA) sponsors competitive grants (maximum award of \$5,000) for studies of educational issues. Studies lasting up to 18 months may be proposed. The purpose of the awards is to support studies that focus on instructional improvement, classroom assessment, educational measurement at both the district and state level, and the evaluation of education programs. Research and evaluation proposals focusing on issues associated with equity or that include partnerships across institutions are particularly encouraged. Preference will be given to applicants who are current WERA members and have not received a previous WERA grant. Continuation of previous WERA grants will not be funded.

Grant application deadline: Applications must be received by WERA Executive Secretary no later than the deadline set by the WERA Board. Electronic submission of applications is required through an email attachment. Such emails must bear a "sent date" of no later than the due date. Acknowledgment of electronic submission will be sent to the primary contact. If there are materials in the application which cannot be sent electronically or if electronic submission is not possible, mailed, faxed, or hand carried materials must be delivered to the WERA Executive Secretary by midnight on the due date. Do not send materials for which acknowledgement has already been received. Receipt of all applications will be acknowledged as soon as possible by the chair of the Grants Committee.

Questions about the grant application may be sent via email to the Grants Chair up to one week prior of the grant deadline. Please refer to the grants tab at www.wera-web.org for more information on the research grants process and for a copy of the application materials.

Applications should be e-mailed to:

Brandon Lagerquist, Grant Committee Chair

E-mail: weraoffice@gmail.com

Please include Research Grant Application in the subject line.



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WERA Hot Topics Webinar

Washington Educational Research Association (WERA) is excited to launch a free webinar series called “Hot Topics” to its members. The “Hot Topics” webinars occur 3 – 4 times a year specific to relevant education issues and/or highlight WERA offerings that will be of interest to members.

Here is the first Hot Topics webinar. The topic is the new student perception survey work that WA has embarked on and is now available to educators across the state. This has been a 3+ year project focused on gathering student perceptions of instruction and we were excited to host two integral people who will discuss this work – Sue Anderson, Director of Educator Effectiveness/Educator Growth and Development at OSPI and Pete Bylsma, Director of Assessment and Program Evaluation at the Mukilteo School District. Facilitating this discussion was WERA Board Member and Executive Director at the Center for Strengthening the Teaching Profession Nasue Nishida.

To learn more about our WERA Hot Topic Webinars use this link:

<https://www.wera-web.org/hot-topics-webinar>



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The WERA Board, 2017-18

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