



The Standard Deviation

Newsletter of the Washington Educational Research Association (WERA)
November 2014

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

President's Column



To say we are in a time of change is the epitome of the understatement! If ever there was a time in education that called for the commitment of practitioners, collaboration of colleagues, and wisdom of leaders, it is most certainly now. Amid the swirl, how do we find the strength, courage, and fortitude to harness the change

toward improved outcomes for children? Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani schoolgirl, who was recently awarded the 2014 Nobel Peace Prize for her education activism stated, "I don't want to be thought of as the girl who was shot by the Taliban, but the "girl who fought for education." This is the cause to which I want to devote my life." Her story provides the inspiration to reconnect with our individual commitment to education and is a reminder how fortunate we are to do this work together.

WERA strives to serve and support educators from PreK-20 and from the frontlines in the classroom to policy makers in Olympia, all charged with the important yet formidable task of educating our children and young adults. Through our conferences and special interest groups we create community. Together we are tackling the mountain of information and managing myriad initiatives. Together we are learning best-practice strategies, refining our use of data, and applying research to practice. It is together that we will channel the change toward improved outcomes for children.

Registration is open for the 29th Annual WERA/OSPI Washington State Assessment Conference on December 10-12. Our theme this year is *Embracing the Change: Students at the Core*. WERA takes great pride in providing a high quality conference experience including nationally recognized keynote speakers. On Thursday you will hear from Jerry Weast, superintendent for 35 years, who's no nonsense approach is laced with passion and backed up with experiences and practical steps. Kicking off our day on Friday is Joe Willhoft, Executive Director of the Smarter Balanced Consortium, who, with straight talk laced with humor, will provide insights into the development of the Smarter Balanced suite of assessments and how implementation of the new tests will be supported.

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Calendar of Events

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming WERA events:

29th Annual Washington State Assessment Conference: *Embracing the Change: Students at the Core*

Dates: December 10-12, 2014

Place: Hilton Seattle Airport Hotel and Conference Center

December 10: Preconference with half-day workshops

P-3 track all three days

Keynote speaker, Thursday: Jerry Weast

Keynote speaker, Friday: Joe Willhoft

Early bird discount for registration by November 8

Register at the WERA web site:

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

WERA P-3 Conference

Date/Time: March 5, 2015, 8:30-3:30

Place: Hilton Seattle Airport Hotel and Conference Center

Registration opens January 15

HiCap SIG Meetings

Date: Nov. 19, Jan 14, March 11, all 8:30 – 11:30 a.m.

Place: Northshore School District Office,

3330 Monte Villa Parkway

Bothell, WA 98021

Phone: 425-408-6000

K-20 videoconferencing will be available



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President's Column, continued

The WERA December Conference is the place to be for the latest information about Smarter Balanced Assessments, Digital Library, Common Core State Standards, and Next Generation Science Standards. With intentional programming on topics such as P-3, Technology, Highly Capable, Teacher Evaluation, Leadership, Higher Education and more, there are breakout sessions for educators in every role.

WERA offers the opportunity to join a community of dedicated educators as a participant or volunteer. We are currently seeking nominations for board positions with the slate announced at the December conference. Members may also wish to serve on a planning committee or apply to present at a future WERA conference. Please refer to our website for information on board nominations as well as awards, and grants. WERA invests in its members and we encourage our members to invest in WERA.

The December conference is around the corner and could not be more timely. I look forward to welcoming you to this outstanding, collaborative professional development event!

Nancy Young
WERA President

Call for Nominations for the WERA Board

Would you or a colleague like to serve on the WERA Board? The Board now seeks nominations for the following three open positions:

President Elect
Member-at-Large
Member-at-Large

If you would like to run for one of these positions, or nominate someone else for one of these positions, please contact Nancy Young at nyoung@nsd.org or Glenn Malone at malonege@gmail.com.

Call for Papers for the WERA Educational Journal (WEJ)

We are currently seeking papers and other submissions for the 2015 issues 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 (Fall and Spring). Papers for the Spring 2015 issue are due by January 10 and papers for the Fall 2015 are due July 1.

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



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Call for Papers for the WERA Educational Journal (WEJ)

The 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 website at <http://www.wera-web.org/links/Journal/WEJpubguidelines2011.pdf>. If you have questions about the process or about possible submissions, please e-mail Pete Bylsma, the WEJ co-editor, at WEJeditor@gmail.com.

Dr. Pete Bylsma
WEJ Co-Editor and WERA Past President

Don't miss the P-3 Conference

Planning for the **Third Annual WERA P-3 Symposium** is well underway and we have another terrific group of early learning experts working on details.

Sessions will include early numeracy and literacy, building sustainable, high quality programs and updates from state and local leaders from the early learning field.

Our keynote speaker is confirmed and we are excited to welcome Dr. Juanita Copley, Professor Emerita at the University of Houston's College of Education.

Date: Tuesday, March 3, 2015, 8:30 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Place: Hilton Seattle Airport Conference Center

Registration opens January 15

You don't want to miss this opportunity to connect with colleagues, share best practices and learn from the work of experts in the early learning community. This annual event is co-sponsored with OSPI, Department of Early Learning, University of Washington, and others.

Dr. Kathryn Sprigg
WERA Past President



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

Dr. Juanita Copley
Professor Emerita
College of Education
University of Houston

Call for Nominations for WERA Grants and Awards

WERA GRANTS

WERA seeks educators who have studies that can go forward with your insight, professionalism and motivation but are lacking the finances to make them 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. **The grant application deadline is February 16, 2015.**



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Call for Nominations for WERA Grants and Awards

For more information on the application format, requirements and submission procedure, please visit <http://www.wera-web.org/grants/grant-award-procedures/>. WERA looks forward to hearing from you!

WERA AWARDS

Each year WERA has several awards that are given to individuals who have contributed their time, energy and expertise in one of several areas. Recipients are carefully chosen to reflect the outstanding contributions that have been made. The awards are in the areas of:

1. Research Award
2. Product Award – outstanding products related to assessment, evaluation or research
3. Outstanding Dissertation Award
4. Assessment Director's Network Award – this is awarded by WERA's longest standing Special Interest Group (SIG) Assessment Director's Network
5. Distinguished Paper Award
6. Art Maser Service Award
7. Gordon Ensign Jr. Service Award

If you know someone or a group of individuals who has collaborated on something that would fit into the above award group, please let WERA know with a short explanation of why you would like to nominate them. It is truly an honor to be chosen among peers to receive one of the WERA Awards and it is our membership that can help get the word out about outstanding work that deserves recognition.

Nancy Steers

WERA Board Member-at-Large

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, 2014-15

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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 Jack Monpas-Huber at jack.monpashuber@rentonschools.us. Previous issues and submission guidelines are available online at <http://www.wera-web.org>