

WERA Outstanding Dissertation Award

Purpose

To recognize exemplary dissertation research by doctoral students related to improving K-12 or higher education.

Awards

- One-year complimentary membership in WERA.
- Presentation of a plaque at the WERA/OSPI Annual Conference.
- Complimentary WERA/OSPI Annual Conference registration.

Eligibility

Candidates must have successfully defended their dissertation and been awarded a doctorate degree by an accredited Washington state institution in the calendar year in which the application is due.

Criteria

A subcommittee of the WERA Awards Committee will evaluate submissions based on the following criteria:

- Conceptually clear and important problem or hypothesis.
- Comprehensive review of applicable literature.
- Utilization of a methodologically sound approach.
- Cogent analysis of data.
- Meaningful results and discussion.
- Scholarly writing style.

Three WERA members will comprise the subcommittee and will make its recommendations to the Awards Committee. The subcommittee may recommend more than one award each year. An award will be granted only if the Committee deems that a dissertation is exemplary.

Application Procedure

1. Submit one copy of the complete dissertation.
2. Submit an overview of the dissertation in electronic format. The overview must be fewer than 1500 words (including graphics and appendices) and include the following elements:
 - The question investigated
 - A description of the conceptual or theoretical base
 - A brief review of the relevant literature
 - A description of the data and methodology used
 - A review of the findings, and
 - A discussion of the relevance of the findings

3. The chair or member of the dissertation committee must submit a letter of endorsement that does the following:
 - Attests to the nominee's eligibility,
 - Specifies the meritorious nature of the dissertation as it relates to the evaluation criteria, and
 - Indicates the nominee's current position, mailing address, telephone number and email address.

4. The dissertation, overview, and letter of endorsement must be sent to the WERA Awards Committee at weraoffice@gmail.com by October 30 of the year in which the dissertation was defended or the doctorate degree was awarded:

Notification

Applicants will be notified of the committee's decision following the November WERA Board meeting.

For more information, contact

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