



SERA Newsletter

Southwest Educational Research Association

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The Prez Says...

The SERA Board of Directors and I look forward to seeing each of you in San Antonio for another great conference. The annual conference is a fantastic way to establish and renew collaborative relationships with scholar-practitioners in educational research, share cutting edge research, and explore new research possibilities. The 48th Annual Meeting of the SERA will be held at the Menger Hotel on February 19-21, 2025. Throughout this newsletter, you will find details about the conference, including links to the annual meeting, conference information from the Program Chair, Lesley Leach, and information about the presidential invited address, training sessions, and awards. One highlight we are very excited about is this year's presidential speaker, Lloyd Potter, who is the Texas State Demographer, Director of the Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research, and Professor of Sociology and Demography at the University of Texas, San Antonio. More information about this session is available in our Program Chair News.



Shaun Hutchins
Texas A&M University

The SERA repository will be up and running again this year. Based on the positive feedback we received, we will continue offering SERA members the opportunity to upload their papers before the conference begins and download them for other presentations. Although only first authors can upload and remove papers from the repository, EVERYONE can log in to the repository site with the same e-mail address they used when submitting their proposals. They will then be asked to establish a unique password to maintain the system's integrity and ensure that only the authors of papers can upload or delete papers from the repository. More information about the SERA repository will be communicated via e-mail. Be sure to check e-mails from the Executive Director as the conference dates get closer.

The SERA Junior Mentoring Initiative, organized by Michelle Peters and Tonya Jeffery, will continue with another session at this year's conference. The project aims to provide support for junior faculty in the form of mentoring. Look for a junior faculty strand in the 2025 program to find ways you can be mentored as a junior faculty member or serve as a mentor if you are a more experienced SERA member.

The Prez Says... (continued from page 1)

The SERA Early Career Research Grants Program, guided by Chrissy Cross and Shirley Matteson, will have several recipients presenting their research projects at a special session during the annual conference. The early career grant initiative provides up to \$1,000 in funding for a doctoral student and an assistant professor at a 4-year institution.

Membership numbers in SERA continue to remain strong. The Board strives to ensure that SERA membership dues remain low and that the conference is a student-friendly, affordable opportunity for current and aspiring scholars to exchange research. The SERA conference has something for everyone. If this is your first SERA conference, I recommend attending the Navigating Through and Getting the Most from SERA Session provided by Linda Reichwein Zientek and Susan Troncoso Skidmore. If you are interested in building your research skills, make sure to attend one of the SERA training workshops. I also encourage you to attend as many paper sessions as you can that are related to your research area.

Be sure to take the time to mingle with colleagues at breakfast and conference breaks. The SERA conference offers the perfect opportunity to develop new research ideas, strengthen your existing ideas, and make connections to effectively turn your ideas into publications. I look forward to seeing you in San Antonio!

Shaun Hutchins

SERA President

Texas A&M University

SERA Repository

The SERA Paper Repository will open on January 15, 2024. The use of the Repository is optional, but we highly encourage you to upload a digital copy of your paper. This provides documentation of your effort and is a great way to access the papers presented by other members at this year's conference.

You can access the Repository by going directly to the SERA website or by clicking on the following link: [Repository Link](#)

Mark Your Calendar for Future Conference Dates and Locations

2026 Conference—New Orleans, LA
At the Hotel Monteleone
Wednesday, February 18 to Friday, February 20

2027 Conference—San Antonio, TX
At the Menger Hotel
Wednesday, February 17 to Friday, February 19

News from Our Program Chair

Get ready for an incredible experience at the 2025 conference, which will begin on **Wednesday, February 19, 2025**, at the Menger Hotel in San Antonio, TX. We begin by offering three outstanding training opportunities for you to choose from:



Lesley Leach
Tarleton State University

- Learn how to build a successful faculty job application and/or tenure and promotion packet in Grant Morgan's session, **Developing and Demonstrating your Research Agenda for Getting a Job and Getting Promoted**,
- Explore the systematic review process for synthesizing intervention effects in the **Systematic Review with Meta-Analysis: Reading the Evidence in Education** training with Peter Boedeker, or
- Build your writing skills and productivity in Wendi Zimmer's **Writing with P.O.W.E.R. – Increasing your Writing Habits to Powerfully Enhance your Writing Productivity** training session.

We're also excited to announce our **Presidential Invited Speaker** – Dr. Lloyd Potter, Texas State Demographer and Professor of Sociology and Demography at The University of Texas at San Antonio. Dr. Potter will share his expertise in the **Presidential Invited Address on Thursday, February 20**, directly after our annual SERA luncheon. And, graduate students, don't miss your chance for some one-on-one time with Dr. Potter at the traditional Fireside Chat following the presidential invited address!

Our diverse program of research symposia, presentations, and innovative sessions is taking shape. Graduate students are once again invited to present their research in progress in **Division VI**, where they'll get invaluable feedback from seasoned researchers. For those presenting in this division, please remember to submit your papers to your discussant by **January 8**, so that discussants have plenty of time to review your paper prior to the conference.

We're in the process of reviewing proposals and will send emails with review results later this fall. The draft program will be available by **early December**, so keep an eye on the SERA website to find your presentation slot and start making your travel plans.

A quick reminder for presenters: **projectors will be provided** but be sure to bring your own laptop and presentation on a flash drive. You'll have 10-13 minutes to present, so we recommend keeping your presentation to around ten slides. And don't forget to bring **10-15 copies** of your completed paper for distribution, or submit it to the SERA repository if you prefer. Visit our website at SERA for all the latest updates. We're counting down the days until we see you in San Antonio for the **48th annual SERA conference!**

Lesley Leach
2025 Program Chair
SERA President Elect
Tarleton State University

Pre-Conference Workshops

Developing and Demonstrating your Research Agenda for Getting a Job and Getting Promoted

Articulating your research agenda is one of the most important components of a successful faculty job application and of a successful tenure and promotion packet. Unfortunately, many, if not most, graduate students and junior faculty never receive direct input into how to take on this critical piece of their application and/or promotion materials. In this workshop, participants will learn the three key elements of an effective research agenda and how to emphasize the three elements when articulating the agenda. The workshop will cover basics like planning and visualization and strategies like using metrics to demonstrate impact.



Grant Morgan
Baylor University



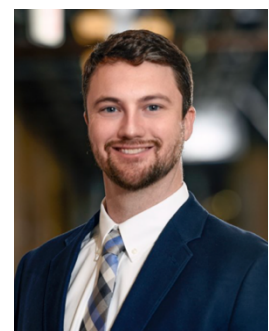
Wendi Zimmer
Texas A&M University

Writing with P.O.W.E.R. – Increasing your Writing Habits to Powerfully Enhance your Writing Productivity

You know your subject matter, but do you know which writing processes and habits are optimal for communicating your expertise? The ones that yield productivity, publications, and promotions? The P.O.W.E.R. (“Promoting Outstanding Writing for Excellence in Research”) system, pioneered by Pat Goodson at Texas A&M University, will save you years of trial and error. During this 2-hour workshop based on P.O.W.E.R. principles, we will survey the most effective practices from leading writers (academic and non-academic) and peak performance theory that you can apply to your writing work. Show up to this workshop with a device on which you can compose and edit text, one of your works in progress, and your top three writing goals in mind. You will leave with strategies, techniques, templates, resources, reading lists, and new accountability partners for your academic writing career.

Systematic Review with Meta-Analysis: Reading the Evidence in Education

Systematic Review with Meta-Analysis provides a structured synthesis of intervention effectiveness. Combining evidence from potentially hundreds of studies, the resulting synthesis helps to determine which educational interventions work best and for whom do such interventions have differing effects. Understanding the process of a systematic review and how to interpret the findings of a meta-analysis are critical to take advantage of this rich resource. By the end of this workshop, attendees will be able to describe the systematic review process and interpret the statistical results of a meta-analysis.



Peter Boedeker
Baylor College of
Medicine

SERA Research Grants

Two research grants are available to SERA members.

The SERA Early Career Research Grant—Assistant Professor is available to those individuals who meet the following criteria:

- An assistant professor employed at a 4-year institution in a tenure-track position
- Attended and presented at SERA within the last three years
- Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with a mentor through the SERA Mentoring Initiative.
- Additional application requirements can be found at: https://sera-edresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/SERA_Assistant-Professor-Award.pdf



Shirley Matteson
Texas Tech University

The SERA Early Career Research Grant—Doctoral Candidate is available to those individuals who meet the following criteria:

- A doctoral candidate who has defended a dissertation proposal approved by the dissertation committee.
- Attended and presented at SERA within the last three years.
- Additional application requirements can be found at: https://sera-edresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/SERA_Doctoral-Student-Award.pdf

Both SERA Research Grant awards provide up to \$1,000 for 1-year projects and may be awarded each year. Institutions may not charge indirect or overhead costs on these awards.



Chrissy Cross
Stephen F. Austin State
University

Funding restrictions

Previous award winners cannot reapply for the same award in subsequent years. SERA Board Members (either elected or appointed) are not eligible.

Evaluation criteria

The evaluation criteria will include: Quality of literature review, relevance of the topic, relevance of research questions, the strength of the methodology section, and quality of writing. An additional criterion will be whether or not the analytic methods fit the research questions.

Reporting requirements

All Research Grantees will be required to submit a SERA proposal through the Grants Coordinator, who will submit to SERA Program Chair for inclusion in a special session at the upcoming February Annual Conference. In order to receive the final grant funds (see funding disbursement), an APA formatted manuscript must be submitted to the Grants Coordinator on or before the first day of the February Annual Conference for the subsequent year. See “Distributing Papers” in the SERA Call for Proposals.

Funding disbursement

Grantees will receive \$500.00 upon award selection and \$500.00 after presenting at the next February SERA Annual Conference (receipts must be submitted). Travel expenses to conferences may not exceed 30% of award total. The award amounts will not be channeled through institutions; thus, there are no overhead or indirect costs. ***It is expected that the award winners will be present at the SERA luncheon.***

Application Deadlines

Applications for these Research Grants will be open once a year. Proposals must be submitted to the SERA Research Grant Coordinator, Chrissy Cross at crossc1@sfasu.edu and Shirley Matteson at shirley.matteson@ttu.edu.

Paper Awards Information

SERA Linda Reichwein Zientek Outstanding Paper Award

Authors are encouraged to email copies of the paper submitted for presentation at the annual meeting to the SERA Executive Director, Linda Zientek. An individual may submit only one paper on which he/she is author or coauthor. The winner of the Outstanding Paper Award in the prior year is not eligible for consideration. Active officers of the SERA Executive Council, including appointed officers, are not eligible.

Award: \$1,000; present paper at AERA in 2026

Deadline: January 3, 2025 (12:00pm)

Submit Electronically

Linda Zientek SERA Executive Director
lrzientek@shsu.edu

SERA Dean's Awards

Papers for consideration of the SERA Dean's Award must only be authored by graduate students. The award may be given to the first author only or to all authors. Completed graduate student research (Division I – V) and works in progress (Division VI) are eligible. Papers can be in any form (i.e., literature reviews, explanation of statistical concepts, case studies, other), and will be judged from the perspective of how well they will further the theory of educational research. Student recipients must be from a university that provides an award and must attend the 2025 SERA annual conference. More deans are expected to enroll soon. Students who are not enrolled in a university whose Dean of the College of Education supports this award are not eligible.

Awards: \$300 per university for two \$150 awards

Deadline: January 8, 2024 (5:00 pm)

Submit Electronically Only

Erik Torres

SERA Graduate Student Representative
elt010@shsu.edu

SERA Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award

The first author must be a graduate student. Papers must be completed graduate student research (Division I through Division V); may be a condensed version of a thesis or dissertation, as well as other research; and are presented as papers or symposiums at the conference. Works in progress (Division VI) and preliminary works, such as literature reviews, class projects, proposals, are not eligible for the award.

Award: \$750.

Deadline: January 8, 2024 (by 5:00 pm)

Submit Electronically

Shaun Hutchins SERA President
shaun.hutchins@tamu.edu

SERA Outstanding Undergraduate Student Paper Award

The Outstanding Undergraduate Student Paper Award competition is for completed undergraduate student research (i.e., ONLY Division I through V papers), and may include capstone projects, collaborative work with a faculty member, or other undergraduate student research. The award will be given for the best paper presented by an undergraduate student member at the annual meeting. For a paper to be eligible, the work must be completed before the annual meeting and then presented in a paper or symposium session.

Awards: \$500

Deadline: January 8, 2024 (5:00 pm)

Submit Electronically Only

Emma Bullock Past-President
exb051@shsu.edu

Graduate Student News

Warmest welcome to all graduate student members of the Southwest Educational Research Association! As the current Graduate Student Representative and on behalf of the SERA Board of Directors, thank you for helping to make the 47th Annual SERA Conference a success. The advancement of this conference is in large part due to you as the graduate student volunteers, presenters, and attendees. So, thank you for your continued support of SERA!

During the conference, the new SERA Graduate Student Council was elected, and the previous leadership stepped down. I would like to thank the 2023-2024 Graduate Student Representative Chrissy Eubank (Texas Tech University) for her year of service to the SERA Board of Directors and the graduate student membership. For the last year, Chrissy represented the interests of all graduate students in the SERA community and served as our voice on the SERA Board of Directors. Her work in supporting SERA graduate students and assisting with the annual conference was noticed and greatly appreciated. Additionally, I would like to thank the 2023-2024 SERA Campus Representatives for their service: Bethanie Ivie (Texas A&M University - Texarkana), Aminah Crawford (Texas A&M University), Sheena Blain (University of Houston-Clear Lake), Sameera Massey (Texas A&M University- Corpus Christi), and Nicole Burkett (Tarleton State University).



Erik Torres
Sam Houston State University

The newly elected Graduate Student Council for the 2024-2025 year began their term of service and look forward to fostering opportunities for our graduate community. I am excited to welcome your council: Elizabeth Dees (Texas Tech University), Ericca Douglas (Sam Houston State University), Festus Fajuyigbe (University of Houston – Clear Lake), Tina Lancaster (Texas A&M University– Commerce), Carol Miller-Nix (Texas A&M University – Texarkana), and Shelby Sharpe (Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi).

The 48th Annual SERA Conference will be held February 19-21, 2024, in San Antonio, TX, and it is never too early to start preparing! SERA is an excellent opportunity for graduate students to network with other members from across the region, present current scholarship supportive environment, and learn from other presenters and presentations. Division VI provides graduate students a venue for feedback on works-in-progress and celebrates phenomenal graduate student work through the Dean's Award and the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award. Additional details on award submissions will be included in the call for proposals. As we move closer to the deadline for submitting a proposal, I encourage all graduate student members to consider current projects and papers in development that might be appropriate for presentation(s) at SERA 2025. I hope to see all of you next year in San Antonio!

Erik Torres
Graduate Student Representative
Sam Houston State University

2025 Presidential Invited Address



Lloyd Potter, Ph.D.

University of Texas, San Antonio
Professor

College of Health, Community and Policy
Director, Institute for Demographic and Socioeconomic Research (IDSER)
Texas State Demographer

Dr. Potter's current work focuses upon understanding and communicating demographic processes in Texas, training doctoral level applied demographers in the areas of public policy and health, and conducting demographic research on public policy and health related topics. Over his career, Dr. Potter's work has focused on applying demographic methods and social and behavioral science in public health settings. Before joining the Institute, Dr. Potter was Director of the Center for Study and Prevention of Injury, Violence, and Suicide at the non-profit company Education Development Center. Earlier he managed the youth violence and suicide prevention program at the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

A Preview of San Antonio for the 2025 SERA Annual Meeting

Come join us in San Antonio at the Menger Hotel for our SERA 2025 annual conference from February 19 to 21, 2025. You can be assured of a very academically stimulating conference and a good time for all. San Antonio has always been a crossroads for travelers, explorers, and those on a quest for liberty. Its sights, sounds, tastes and past captivate, while friendly people, the relaxing river and superb climate entice visitors to come back for more. From its important role in Texas independence to its fusion of cultures, San Antonio is a truly unique and authentic destination.



While in San Antonio for the conference, you will have many places to visit for shopping, dining, and entertainment. The Alamo, The Riverwalk, Tower of Americas, the Buckhorn Hall of Fame and several museums such as the Witte, McNay Art Museum, and San Antonio Museum of Art are great places to site-see if this is your venue of choice. If you like to shop, make sure to take some time to stroll through La Villita for a very unique shopping experience. Are you more into the fun “party crowd” localities? You will find such places as Dick’s Last Resort, Howl at the Moon, Swigs, Pat O’Brien’s, and Dirty Nellie’s to choose from.

The Roosevelt Bar is a must-see piece of history that is located in the Menger Hotel. Teddy Roosevelt enlisted his Rough Riders there and Carrie Nation chopped up the bar during prohibition. The Menger has a very extensive and interesting history, the hotel first opened its doors in 1859 making it the oldest continuously operating hotel west of the Mississippi River.

Many famous people have stayed at the hotel such as Babe Ruth, Mae West, Roy Rogers and his wife Dale Evans, General Sam Houston, Presidents McKinley, Nixon, Reagan, Johnson, Clinton and Bush. It’s been said that the hotel has many ghosts and spirits, so don’t be too surprised to catch a glimpse of them roaming around the hotel. Cheers and see you in San Antonio!



SERA Board Members and Appointments

| | | | |
|--|--|------------------------------------|---|
| President | Shaun Hutchins <i>Texas A&M University</i> | Secretary: 2023 – 2025 | Audrey Meador <i>West Texas A&M University</i> |
| President-Elect/Program Chair | Lesley Leach <i>Tarleton State University</i> | Deputy Executive Director | Forrest Lane <i>Stephen F. Austin State University</i> |
| Past-President | Emma Bullock <i>Sam Houston State University</i> | Graduate Student Representative | Erik Torres <i>Sam Houston State University</i> |
| Treasurer | Grant Morgan <i>Baylor University</i> | Members-at-Large: 2022 – 2025 | Ryan Glaman <i>Tarleton State University</i> |
| Executive Director | Linda Zientek <i>Sam Houston State University</i> | | Ronald Rhone <i>Tarleton State University</i> |
| Director of Information Technology | Susan Troncoso Skidmore <i>Sam Houston State University</i> | | Michelle Peters <i>University of Houston – Clear Lake</i> |
| Executive Director <i>Emeritus</i> , Historian | Bruce Thompson <i>Texas A&M University</i> | Members-at-Large: 2023 – 2026 | Alonzo Flowers <i>University of Texas—San Antonio</i> |
| Deputy Treasurer | Kim Nimon <i>University of Texas – Tyler</i> | | Bethanie Pletcher <i>Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi</i> |
| Audio Visual | Shirley Matteson <i>Texas Tech University</i> | | Carol Waters <i>University of Houston—Clear Lake</i> |
| SERA Early Career Research Grant Initiative | Chrissy Cross <i>Stephen F. Austin State University</i> | Members-at-Large: 2024 – 2027 | Stephen Gruber <i>University of Houston – Clear Lake</i> |
| | Shirley Matteson <i>Texas Tech University</i> | | Sara Lawrence <i>Texas A&M University – Texarkana</i> |
| SERA Early Career Faculty Mentoring Initiative | Michelle Peters <i>University of Houston – Clear Lake</i> | | Amy Ray <i>Sam Houston State University</i> |
| | Tonya Jeffery <i>University of Houston – Downtown</i> | Newsletter Editor | Peter Boedeker <i>Baylor College of Medicine</i> |

Interested in getting involved?

Individuals are nominated by the membership each fall to serve on the SERA board. All current members are eligible to vote and receive an electronic ballot. SERA elections use the Hare system and at-large member candidates serve a three-year term beginning at the end of each annual

2024 – 2025 Graduate Student Council



Elizabeth Dees
Texas Tech University

Tina Lancaster
*Texas A&M –
Commerce*



Ericca Douglas
*Sam Houston State
University*

Carol Miller-Nix
*Texas A&M –
Texarkana*



Festus Fajuyigbe
*University of Houston –
Clear Lake*

Shelby Sharpe
*Texas A&M – Corpus
Christi*



2024 SERA Election Ballot

People who were members prior to August 2024 are eligible to vote in the SERA 2024 election and will receive an electronic ballot. If you experience any difficulty accessing your ballot or have any questions concerning the election, please contact Linda Zientek at lrzientek@yahoo.com and Susan Troncoso-Skidmore at skidmore@shsu.edu.

Please take the time to cast your vote. Each vote represents a valued choice and provides you an opportunity to have your voice heard. Polls will open on October 16th and close at 11:59 p.m., U.S. central daylight time on November 1st.

Candidates Selected for the Ballot

| Position | Candidate | Institution |
|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| Program Chair | Ryan Glaman | Tarleton State University |
| Secretary | Audrey Meador | West Texas A&M University |
| Member-at-Large | Peter Boedeker | Baylor College of Medicine |
| Member-at-Large | Lacy Brice | Texas Tech University |
| Member-at-Large | Chrissy Cross | Stephen F. Austin |
| Member-at-Large | Anthony Edwards | Tarleton State University |
| Member-at-Large | Karen McIntush | University of Houston |

About the HARE Electoral System

SERA elections use the Hare system. This system reallocates votes in races with more than 2 candidates until each position obtains a majority of the votes cast. Sometimes this system is also called the "Instant Run-off Voting System." For example, if 3 candidates were running for one office, and the first round rankings were:

| Geri | Sue | Bob | Voter |
|------|-----|-----|-------------------|
| 3 | 1 | 2 | A |
| 3 | 1 | 2 | B |
| 1 | 3 | 2 | C |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | D |
| 1 | 3 | 2 | E |
| 2 | 3 | 1 | F |
| 1 | 3 | 2 | G |
| 1 | 3 | 2 | H |
| 3 | 2 | 1 | I |
| 4 | 2 | 3 | First Place Votes |



Because no candidate received 5 or more of the 9 first place votes, Voters "A's", "B's", "D's", and "I's" ranks for the last-place candidate, Sue, would be reallocated to the remaining candidates, and Sue would be eliminated as a candidate, as follows:

At this point, Bob has a majority of the 9 votes, and would be elected, even though Geri had more first place votes than Bob in the initial round of vote counting.



| Geri | Sue | Bob | Voter |
|------|-----|-----|-------------------|
| (2) | | (1) | A |
| (2) | | (1) | B |
| 1 | | 2 | C |
| (2) | | 1 | D |
| 1 | | 2 | E |
| 2 | | 1 | F |
| 1 | | 2 | G |
| 1 | | 2 | H |
| (2) | | 1 | I |
| 4 | | 5 | First Place Votes |

Join us at the Menger Hotel
San Antonio, TX
February 19 – 21, 2025

| Important Dates | |
|---|----------------|
| 2024 | |
| Receipt of Conference Registration – by Check | October 12 |
| Receipt of Conference Registration – by PayPal | October 19 |
| SERA Elections Begin | Mid-October |
| SERA Elections Close | Early November |
| Proposal Decisions Emailed to First Author | Early November |
| Draft of Conference Program Posted | Early December |
| 2025 | |
| DEADLINE for receipt of SERA Linda Reichwein Zientek Outstanding Paper Award | January 3 |
| DEADLINE for receipt by the SERA Graduate Student Representative of an electronic copy of submissions for the SERA Dean's Awards | January 8 |
| DEADLINE for receipt by the SERA President of an electronic copy of submissions for the SERA Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award | January 8 |

Policy on Conducting Research at SERA

No surveys, data collection, interviews, or any sort of human subjects research shall be conducted at the SERA annual meeting, or from the SERA membership, unless the research is first approved by the SERA board. SERA members in violation are subject to being removed from membership, and any SERA Board member in violation is subject to being removed from office for cause.