



The Prez Says...

The SERA Board of Directors and I can't wait to welcome you to **New Orleans** for our 49th Annual Meeting! The annual meeting is always a highlight of the year—a place to meet up with colleagues, develop new collaborations, and share the very best in educational research.



Lesley Leach
Tarleton State University

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The **49th Annual Meeting of the Southwest Educational Research Association** will be held **February 18-20, 2026**, at the **Hotel Monteleone** in the heart of the French Quarter in New Orleans. Inside this newsletter you'll find everything you need to plan your trip: program highlights from our Program Chair, important links for registration, and details on the presidential invited address, training sessions, and awards.

One session we're especially excited about is this year's **presidential speaker**, Dr. Jill Perry. Dr. Perry is the Executive Director of the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate and will speak about how scholar-practitioner leaders leverage research to enact meaningful change in schools and communities.

The **SERA repository** will once again be available so members can upload papers before the conference and download those of fellow presenters. First authors may upload and remove papers, but everyone can log in with the e-mail used for proposal submission and create a secure password. Watch for detailed instructions from the Executive Director as we get closer to February.

Our **Junior Mentoring Initiative**, organized by Michelle Peters and Tonya Jeffery, returns to support early-career scholars with mentoring opportunities. And the **Early Career Research Grants Program**, guided by Chrissy Cross and Shirley Matteson, will showcase this year's grant recipients and their exciting projects.

Membership remains strong, and we remain committed to keeping SERA affordable and student-friendly. If this will be your first SERA conference,

don't miss the **Navigating SERA** session, and be sure to join a training workshop (or two!) to sharpen your research skills.

Between sessions, take time to enjoy the vibrant atmosphere of New Orleans—share ideas over beignets and coffee, explore the music and food of the French Quarter, and turn conference conversations into lasting collaborations.

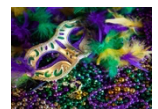
See you in New Orleans soon!

Lesley Leach
SERA President
Tarleton State University



Fun times were had in San Antonio!

We are looking forward to seeing you in New Orleans!



SERA Repository

The SERA Paper Repository will open on January 15, 2026. 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](https://www.sera-edresearch.org/repository)

Mark Your Calendar for Future Conference Dates and Locations

Join us for SERA's 50th Anniversary!

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

News from Our Program Chair

Get ready for an incredible experience at the 2026 conference, which will begin on **Wednesday, February 18, 2026**, at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans, LA. We begin by offering two outstanding training opportunities for you to choose from:

- Learn about practical AI tools you can use to streamline and enhance your research processes in Peter Boedeker and Grant Morgan's **Leveraging AI-Tools in Your Education Research** training session.
- Explore literature reviews and the critical steps for completing a systematic literature synthesis in the **Systematic Synthesis: Methods, Strategies, and Tools for a Rigorous Literature Review** training with Shirley Matteson and Audrey Meador.



Ryan Glaman
Tarleton State University

We're also excited to announce our **Presidential Invited Speaker** – Dr. Jill Perry, Professor of Practice at the University of Pittsburgh and Director of the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate. Dr. Perry will share her expertise in the **Presidential Invited Address on Thursday, February 19**, directly after our annual SERA luncheon. And, graduate students, don't miss your chance for some one-on-one time with Dr. Perry 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 New Orleans for the **49th annual SERA conference!**

Ryan Glaman
2026 Program Chair
SERA President Elect
Tarleton State University

Pre-Conference Workshops

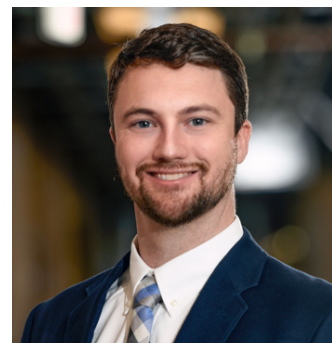


Grant Morgan
Baylor University

Leveraging AI-Tools in Your Education Research

Presenters: Peter Boedeker and Grant Morgan

This training session introduces participants to practical AI applications that can streamline and enhance their research. The session will demonstrate 3–4 widely accessible tools for various elements of the research process. Participants will learn strategies for integrating AI ethically and effectively, while maintaining rigor and transparency. Hands-on activities will provide opportunities to explore how AI can support efficiency and broaden the impact of education scholarship.



Peter Boedeker
Baylor College of Medicine

Systematic Synthesis: Methods, Strategies, and Tools for a Rigorous Literature Review

Presenters: Shirley Matteson and Audrey Meador

In contrast to the purpose of a traditional literature review synthesis, a systematic synthesis seeks to provide an answer to a specific question through deep examination of published studies. There are numerous formats of such systematic reviews. This workshop will outline critical steps in undertaking and completing a systematic synthesis with an emphasis on those employing qualitative methods. Steps include determining a question, deciding what studies are relevant, deep reading of the content, determining how studies relate to each other, technology for managing the systematic review, synthesizing the information, and writing up the findings. Attendees will be guided through the features of a free, publicly available technology software for conducting a systematic literature synthesis. Attendees will collaborate with other workshop participants on a small-scale qualitative literature synthesis project, exploring data collection, extraction, evaluation, and analysis of existing literature on a topic. Future collaborations and continuation of the work discussed during the workshop is highly encouraged. Prior to the workshop, all participants who register for this training will be provided with information for requesting access to the technology and are encouraged to bring a device for access to the platform to engage in this work.



Shirley Matteson
Texas Tech University



Audrey Meador
West Texas A&M
University

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

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



Shirley Matteson
Texas Tech 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.

Upcoming Workshops

Preparing to present your research at the SERA conference

What is it about? This workshop will focus on creating your presentation and research paper for the SERA conference

When is it? Saturday, November 8, 2025, 9:30a-11:00a

Where is it? <https://uhcl.zoom.us/j/94081641323>

Who should I contact with questions? Michelle Peters (petersm@uhcl.edu) and Tonya Jeffery (jefferyt@uhd.edu)



Michelle Peters
University of Houston – Clear Lake



Tonya Jeffery
University of Houston - Downtown

Want to be a SERA paper award winner?

What is it about? Join us for an informative session to learn everything you need to know about the rules, eligibility, and submission process for SERA's prestigious awards.

When is it? Saturday, November 8, 2025, 11:00a-12:00p

Where is it? <https://uhcl.zoom.us/j/94081641323>

Who should I contact with questions? Michelle Peters (petersm@uhcl.edu) and Tonya Jeffery (jefferyt@uhd.edu)

SERA Grant Proposal Workshop

What is it about? Learn how to craft a SERA grant proposal that could provide \$1,000 in funding.

When is it? Saturday, April 4, 2026, 9:30a-11:00a

Where is it? <https://sfasu.zoom.us/j/94246786898>

Who should I contact with questions? Chrissy Cross (crossc1@sfasu.edu), Michelle Peters (petersm@uhcl.edu) and Tonya Jeffery (jefferyt@uhd.edu)



Chrissy Cross
Stephen F. Austin State University

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, Forrest Lane. 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 2027

Deadline: January 3, 2026 (12:00pm)

Submit Electronically

Forrest Lane

SERA Executive Director

forrest.lane@sfasu.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 2026 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, 2026 (5:00 pm)

Submit Electronically Only

Shelby Sharpe

SERA Graduate Student Representative

shelby.sharpe@tamucc.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, 2026 (by 5:00 pm)

Submit Electronically

Lesley Leach

SERA President

leach@tarleton.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, 2026 (5:00 pm)

Submit Electronically Only

Shaun Hutchins

SERA Past-President

shaun.hutchins@tamu.edu

Graduate Student News



Shelby Sharpe
Texas A&M – Corpus Christi

Greetings to all graduate student members of the Southeast 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 48th Annual SERA Conference a success. This conference's success 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 2024-2025 Graduate Student Representatives for their year of service to the SERA Board of Directors and the graduate student membership. Additionally, I would like to thank the SERA Campus Representatives for their efforts to recruit fellow students, review conference proposals, and actively participate in the organization.

The newly elected Graduate Student Council for the 2025-2026 year began their term of service and look forward to fostering opportunities for our graduate community. I am excited to welcome your council: Lynette O'Neal (Member at Large), Samba Goddard (SHSU), Kayode Ufomanefe (TTU), and Esther Herrera (UHCL).

The 49th Annual SERA Conference will be held February 18-20, 2025, in New Orleans, LA, and it is never too early to start preparing for your upcoming proposal and the holiday coinciding with this year's conference! 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 2026. I hope to see all of you next year in New Orleans!

Shelby Sharpe
Graduate Student Representative
Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi

2026 Presidential Invited Address



Jill Alexa Perry, Ph.D.

University of Pittsburgh

Professor of Practice and Director, Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate

Dr. Jill Alexa Perry is the first full Professor of Practice in the School of Education at the University of Pittsburgh. Her research focuses on professional doctorate preparation in education, organizational change in higher education, and faculty leadership roles. Currently she is researching the ways EdD programs teach practitioners to utilize research evidence. She teaches and coaches how to teach Improvement Science in EdD programs. Her books include *The Improvement Science Dissertation in Practice*, *The EdD and the Scholarly Practitioner*, and *In Their Own Words: A Journey to the Stewardship of the Practice in Education*.

Dr. Perry is a graduate of the University of Maryland, where she received her PhD in International Education Policy. She holds an MA in Higher Education Administration and a BA in Spanish and International Studies from Boston College. She has over 25 years of experience in leadership and program development in education and teaching experience at the elementary, secondary, undergraduate, and graduate levels in the US and abroad. She is a Fulbright Scholar (Germany) and a returned Peace Corps Volunteer (Paraguay).

A Preview of New Orleans for the 2026 SERA Annual Meeting

We are looking forward to welcoming you to the 2026 SERA Annual Meeting at the historic Hotel Monteleone. The Hotel Monteleone, our conference hotel, was founded in 1887 and has been offering hospitality in the French Quarter for 138 years (<http://hotelmonteleone.com>). There are many reasons to look forward to your visit.

In addition to the numerous professional opportunities that await during the conference, New Orleans is an award-winning destination with outstanding cuisine, music, art and architecture as well as a rich history and culture.

Want to explore this wonderful city? There are so many free things to do:

Wander along Woldenberg Riverfront Park

From Canal Street to the Moon Walk along the French Quarter, stroll down the riverfront and watch ships of all kinds ply the Mighty Mississippi. Also on the riverfront, Crescent Park offers stellar city views, accessed just past the French Market at Elysian Fields. You can go all the way to Bywater.

Catch street music, live

Take a stroll of the French Quarter and you're bound to run into spontaneous live music on



the street. The show is free, but tipping a few dollars is encouraged.

Watch the sunrise from Algiers Point

Just across the Mississippi River from the French Quarter is historic Old Algiers. Wake up extra early to catch the sunrise from the levees of Algiers Point.



Gallery hop in the Arts and Warehouse District

Check out Julia Street on the first Saturday evening of every month.

Take a Free Tour by Foot

For tours of the French Quarter, including ghost and voodoo tours, check out Free Tours by Foot. Or check out our self-guided tours of The Garden District and other architecturally significant homes in New Orleans.

Access the Historic New Orleans Collection

Learn about the history of the Crescent City. Visits and self-guided tours of the museum galleries are always free.

Take a tour of Saint Louis Cathedral in Jackson Square

The historic church is open to the public and is beautiful.

Watch the crowds on Bourbon Street

You're liable to see just about anything.

*Adapted from New Orleans & Company, "50 Free Things to Do in New Orleans",
<https://www.neworleans.com/things-to-do/fifty-free-things/>

SERA Board Members and Appointments

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

2025 – 2026 Graduate Student Council



Kayode Ufomanefe
Texas Tech University



Esther Herrera
University of Houston – Clear Lake



Samba Goddard
Sam Houston State University



Lynette O'Neal
Texas A&M University

2026 SERA Election Ballot

People who were members prior to August 2025 are eligible to vote in the SERA 2026 election and will receive an electronic ballot. If you experience any difficulty accessing your ballot or have any questions concerning the election, please contact Amy Ray at acr066@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 20 and close at 11:59 p.m., U.S. central daylight time on November 17.

Candidates Selected for the Ballot

Position	Candidate	Institution
Program Chair	Michelle Peters	University of Houston – Clear Lake
Member-at-Large	Mary Curtis	University of Houston – Clear Lake
Member-at-Large	Karen McIntush	University of Houston
Member-at-Large	Elvira Sanatullova-Allison	Texas A&M University. – Kingsville
Member-at-Large	Karen Walker	East Texas A&M University

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 Hotel Monteleone
New Orleans, Louisiana
February 18 – 20, 2026**

Important Dates	
2025	
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
2026	
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.