



SERA Newsletter

Southwest Educational Research Association

The Prez Says...

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Thank you to everyone for making the 48th Annual SERA Conference in San Antonio a huge success! We had over 170 sessions, including workshops, paper presentations, innovative sessions, and symposiums, presented by over 285 presenters. Sessions were well attended, and many praises were heard about the quality of the information presented. Our training sessions provided participants with information on relevant and timely topics, including writing productivity, systematic review with meta-analysis, and developing and demonstrating your research agenda. Thank you to our scholarly trainers, **Wendi Kamman Zimmer, Peter Boedeker, and Grant Morgan!**



Lesley Leach
Tarleton State University

The SERA conference is entirely organized through the contributions of a team of dedicated volunteers. I would like to recognize our past president, **Shaun Hutchins**, who provided excellent leadership, which enables SERA to continue to thrive as a supportive scholarly organization. Behind the scenes at each conference, providing leadership and organization, are **Linda Zientek**, now SERA Executive Director Emerita and Deputy Historian, and **Forrest Lane**, newly appointed Executive Director. **Bruce Thompson** serves on the Board as Executive Director Emeritus/Historian and provides insight, leadership, and guidance on SERA matters.

The 12 Division Co-Chairs deserve special recognition for all their efforts, including managing division proposals, sending proposals out for review, writing acceptance letters, compiling and forwarding reviewer comments, and serving as primary points of contact on proposal submissions. Division Co-Chairs were **Audrey Meador, Ken Helvey, Laura Isbell, Sandra Nite, Tommy De Vaney, Lisa Dryden, Bob Elliot, Julie Yoo, Nara Martirosyan, Monica Wong-Ratcliff, Anthony Edwards, and Karen McIntush**. The work of Division Chairs is facilitated when so many members agree to serve as proposal reviewers. I encourage you to continue to serve in this capacity. I would also like to thank the 17 discussants who shared their research expertise with the Division VI work-in-progress presenters. Discussants included **Peter Boedeker, Emma Bullock, Chrissy Cross, Anthony Edwards, Ryan Glaman, Stephen Gruber, Shaun Hutchins, Tonya Jeffery, Forrest Lane, Sara Lawrence, Audrey Meador, Karen**

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



Left: **Lesley Leach**, Tarleton State University
Right: **Shaun Hutchins**, Texas A&M University

McIntush, Nicole Mishnick, Gwinn North, Amy Ray, Juanita Reyes, Ron Rhone, Crystal Rose, and Celia Scott.

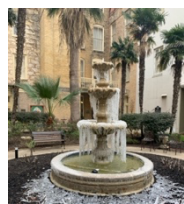
I want to extend a special thank you to **Linda Zientek** for serving as the local arrangements chair. **Tina Lancaster**, Graduate Student Representative, ensured that the papers submitted for the Dean's Awards were reviewed in a timely manner and organized several graduate student activities. The audio-visual committee, headed by **Shirley Matteson** and **Stephen Gruber**, with assistance from numerous volunteers, efficiently distributed and collected all the projectors before and after each session. Thank you to **Audrey Meador, Alonzo Flowers, and Bethany Pletcher** for supervising the registration desk and to all those who served at the registration desk. Members were greeted warmly as they picked up their registration materials and were cheerfully directed to the appropriate session rooms.

Thank you to **Carol Waters and Ron Rhone** who ensured that photos were taken of presenters during the conference. Thank you to **Michelle Peters and Tonya Jeffery** for facilitating the mentorship initiative and **Shirley Matteson and Chrissy Cross** for their work with the early career grant initiatives. Thank you to **Forrest Lane** and Stephen F. Austin University for the printing of the large posters of the session times and locations. **Susan Troncoso Skidmore**, Director of Information Technology, deserves a huge thank you, as she was the individual that made sure our technology ran smoothly. Again, thank you to all of our volunteers. I hope all of you will continue to serve SERA and that new members will volunteer and become an active part of our organization.

The 49th annual conference will be held on February 18-20 in New Orleans at the Hotel Monteleone. Planning is underway, and information on the conference and submitting proposals is provided later in this newsletter. I hope to see you all in New Orleans!

Lesley F. Leach

SERA President
Tarleton State University



News from Our Past President

The SERA 2025 conference was a great success! I hope you had a wonderful time connecting with fellow SERA members and trust that you benefitted from the sessions you attended. We appreciate everyone who presented their research and shared their expertise through workshops, paper presentations, symposiums, and innovative sessions. It is the contributions of our members that make this conference so wonderful, and without your time, effort, and scholarly contributions, none of this would be possible. I thank you all for the time, energy, and dedication you give to SERA each year.

I want to take a moment to thank a few of the many people who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to make the conference run efficiently and smoothly. Thank you to the Program Chair, **Lesley Leach**, and to our local arrangements chair, **Linda Zientek** who was responsible for planning and organizing the schedule, rooms, and food. Very special thanks to **Shirley Matteson** and **Stephen Gruber** who continue to serve as our amazing AV support. The SERA 2025 conference ushered in a historic changing of the guard. Thank you to the new Executive Director **Forrest Lane**, Executive Director Emerita and Deputy Historian **Linda Zientek**, and Executive Director Emeritus and Historian **Bruce Thompson**, who maintain the focus and

vision of SERA. Thank you also to **Tina Lancaster** for her leadership of graduate student awards and activities.

I would also like to thank the anonymous reviewers who judged papers for the Linda Reichwein Zientek Outstanding Paper Award, which was awarded to **Amirpooya**

D. Dardashti from Texas A&M University and the Outstanding Graduate Student Award, which was given to **Lilian Tetteh, Kennedy W. Awuonda, Ogunyomi Opeyemi, and Kamau O. Siwatu**, from Texas Tech University. Please make plans to attend and present at SERA 2026 in New Orleans, Louisiana next year. Our new President, **Lesley Leach**, along with the SERA Board, are planning a great event at the Hotel Monteleone. We look forward to seeing you there!

Shaun Hutchins

Immediate Past President
Texas A&M University



Shaun Hutchins
Texas A&M University



2025 SERA Linda Reichwein Zientek Outstanding Paper Award



Linda Zientek (left) presents the award to Roya Pashmforoosh (center) and Amirpooya D. Dardashti (right), *Texas A&M University*

Congratulations to **Amirpooya D. Dardashti** and **Roya Pashmforoosh**, *Texas A&M University*, who were selected as our 2025 Linda Reichwein Zientek Outstanding Paper awardees for their paper entitled “Teachers' Knowledge and Capacity in Cyberbullying Management During and Post COVID-19: A Systematic Literature Review.” They will present this work at the 2026 AERA conference. This is quite a prestigious award for our conference. We applaud your exemplary efforts! The SERA Linda Reichwein Zientek Paper Award Committee is headed by the Executive Director serving ex officio as the non-voting Chair of the award committee.

Paper Summary: Cyberbullying has emerged as a significant issue in schools over the past two decades. Teachers, as key stakeholders, play a crucial role in its prevention and resolution.

This systematic literature review explores K-12 teachers’ knowledge, awareness, experience, and ability to manage cyberbullying during and after the COVID-19 pandemic. Through an analysis of empirical studies published between 2019 and 2024, we found that teachers generally had a basic understanding of cyberbullying and lacked the confidence and experience necessary to address it effectively. The findings underscore the need to integrate cyberbullying management into teacher professional development (PD) programs.

2025 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award

Congratulations to **Lilian Tetteh**, **Kennedy W. Awuonda**, **Ogunyomi Opeyemi**, and **Kamau O. Siwatu**, from *Texas Tech University* who were selected to receive the 2025 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award. Their paper is entitled “Generative Learning Self-Efficacy Scale: Instrument Development and Validation.”

Paper Summary: This study will present the development and validation of the Generative Learning Self-Efficacy (GLSE) Scale, designed to assess students’ beliefs in their ability to engage in generative learning strategies such as selecting, organizing, integrating, and regulating learning materials. The scale's design is grounded in constructivist theory (Wittrock, 1989) and self-efficacy principles (Bandura, 1997). The findings from confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) reveal that the scale possesses sound psychometric properties. Our study establishes the scale's reliability and validity and explores its implications for enhancing student learning outcomes through targeted instructional strategies.

Reflections from the Executive Director

I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributed to making the SERA Conference in San Antonio a great success! The dedication of the SERA Board and volunteers ensured that the conference ran smoothly, and I truly appreciate their hard work. This year's sessions were well attended, and many valuable research ideas were shared. As we celebrated SERA's 48th conference, I was reminded of the collaborative and supportive environment this organization fosters for faculty and students. I am grateful to all who have helped make SERA a thriving scholarly venue for nearly 50 years.

This year's conference featured outstanding speakers and engaging scholarly sessions. Our Presidential Invited Speaker, Dr. Lloyd Potter—Texas State Demographer and professor of sociology and demography at the University of Texas at San Antonio—delivered a compelling keynote address on demographic shifts in Texas and their potential impact on education. Following his keynote, Dr. Potter participated in a fireside chat with graduate students, offering valuable insights.

Graduate students took full advantage of the many opportunities available to them, including sessions on developing research proposals, preparing for tenure-track faculty positions, and strengthening their writing and analysis skills. Members also had access to three specialized workshops focused on building a research agenda, enhancing writing productivity, and conducting systematic reviews. Additionally, recent graduates and early career scholars benefited from the SERA Early Career Mentoring Initiative. These sessions were just a few of the many enriching experiences offered at the conference.

During our business meeting luncheon, we announced that Linda Zientek will be stepping

down as SERA Executive

Director. Over her 20-year tenure with SERA—including 10 years as Executive Director—Linda has served in numerous leadership roles and has made a lasting impact on the organization.

In recognition of her dedicated service, I am pleased to share that the SERA Board has unanimously appointed Linda as Executive Director Emerita. We are deeply grateful for her commitment and contributions to SERA.

Looking ahead, many attendees expressed excitement for the 2026 SERA Conference, which will take place in New Orleans at the historic Hotel Monteleone. We are honored to welcome Dr. Jill Perry as our keynote speaker. In addition to her address, Dr. Perry will host an informal fireside chat exclusively for graduate students—providing them with a unique opportunity to engage in meaningful discussions and ask questions in a relaxed setting.

The SERA Board looks forward to welcoming you and your colleagues to New Orleans. We hope you will take full advantage of the opportunities to learn, collaborate, and grow at the 2026 SERA Conference.

Forrest Lane

SERA Executive Director
Stephen F. Austin State University



Forrest Lane
Stephen F. Austin State University

2025 Dean's Award Recipients

University of Houston – Clear Lake

Does any of it Matter? Evaluating the Impact of Training Programs on Non-Academic Staff in Higher Education

Esther Herrera

Inclusion or Exclusion

Mirta E. Acosta

Texas Tech University

Decolonizing Postsecondary Developmental Literacy

Ellenar Harper

The Right Answer for the Wrong Reason: Preservice STEM Teachers Preferences and Explanations of Inquiry-Based Teaching

Elizabeth Goldberg

Texas A&M – Texarkana

Safety and Inclusion in Schools for LGBTQ+ Students

Valerie A. Shirley

A Mixed Methods Study Examining the Reasons for Teacher Absenteeism and its Effects on Public Schools

Carol Miller Nix

Texas A&M – College Station

A Phenomenological Study Into Why Good Teachers Leave “Good” Schools

Deborah Crowley

Exploring How Engagement with Gendered Social Media Trends Relates to Mathematics Achievement and Affect in Adolescents

Isabella E. Schemidt



Congratulations to our Dean's Award recipients!

Pictured from left to right are **Ellenar Harper**, **Esther Herrera**, **Mirta Acosta**, **Valerie Shirley**, and **Carol Miller Nix**

The SERA Dean's Awards are presented to students from participating universities.

To view the scoring rubric for the Dean's Award papers, please visit:

<https://sera-edresearch.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/Deans-Award.pdf>

Congratulations to our 2025 Research Grant Winners!

Congratulations to An Dang, *University of North Texas*, the 2025 recipient of the SERA Doctoral Student Research Grant! An presented her research titled, **A Mixed-Methods Investigation of Characteristics Contributing to University Students' Academic Buoyancy**.

Paper Summary:

Academic buoyancy, a student's ability to adapt to everyday academic challenges, is linked to success in school. However, little is known about how individual characteristics influence academic buoyancy in university settings. This study, guided by the Situated Expectancy-Value Theory, explores the relationship between students' self-reported fears, academic identity, and social support with their academic buoyancy. Using an explanatory mixed-methods design, the research focuses on University of North Texas students' experiences. Findings aim to expand educational research and provide insights for educators and student support services to better assist students in maintaining academic buoyancy and achieving success in higher education.

Congratulations to Mary Curtis, *University of Houston – Clear Lake*, the 2025 recipient of the SERA Early Career Research Grant! Dr. Curtis presented her research titled, **Insightful Geographic Inquiry in Teaching Elementary (IGNITE) Social Studies**

Paper Summary:

Social studies education is critically undervalued at the elementary level, despite its focus on spatial thinking and inquiry from multiple perspectives. Pre-service teachers, products of a system that marginalizes social studies, often lack academic self-efficacy—the belief in their academic abilities—and struggle with educator licensure exams, further discouraging their confidence. Technology integration in social studies and pre-service programs remains limited. This study explores the use of Esri's free GeoInquiries, 15-minute interactive activities with premade maps, as an intervention to model best practices for teaching social studies with GIS. Guided by TPACK and academic self-efficacy frameworks, findings will enhance understanding of pre-service teachers' perceptions of GIS and factors influencing its adoption.



Left: **An Dang**, *University of North Texas*
Right: **Mary Curtis**, *University of Houston – Clear Lake*

Past Graduate Student Representative Report

Another great year of SERA has come and gone. The 2025 conference in San Antonio, Texas, was a huge success. With honor and gratitude, I would like to thank the SERA Board, on behalf of all graduate students, for the immense dedication, organization, and work they contributed to creating a supportive environment for graduate students to present their research in progress. We are thankful for the encouragement and feedback.

Congratulations to all the Dean's Award recipients. A special thank you goes to the universities that support their students through participation in such awards. The following institutions graciously provided this year's funding: Texas A&M University—College Station, Texas A&M University—Texarkana, Texas Tech University, and The University of Houston – Clear Lake. Sixteen papers were submitted, and the authors of eight papers from the four universities received awards.

The members of this year's Graduate Student Council accomplished the evaluation of such papers and the organization of various duties throughout the conference beautifully. This graduate council provided tremendous support throughout this year. The Graduate Student Council provided backpacks with swag for the Graduate students present at the student meeting. A big thanks for this!

Congratulations to **Shelby Sharpe**, from Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi, who will be the Graduate Student Representative for 2025-2026. Shelby will lead the Graduate Student Council and will represent graduate student interests to the SERA board.

It has been a pleasure serving with SERA as the Graduate Student Representative and being a part of an association that truly seeks to support graduate students in meaningful ways as they explore their interests in research. I hope to see you all next year with new and exciting research to share!

Thank you for letting me represent you this past year.

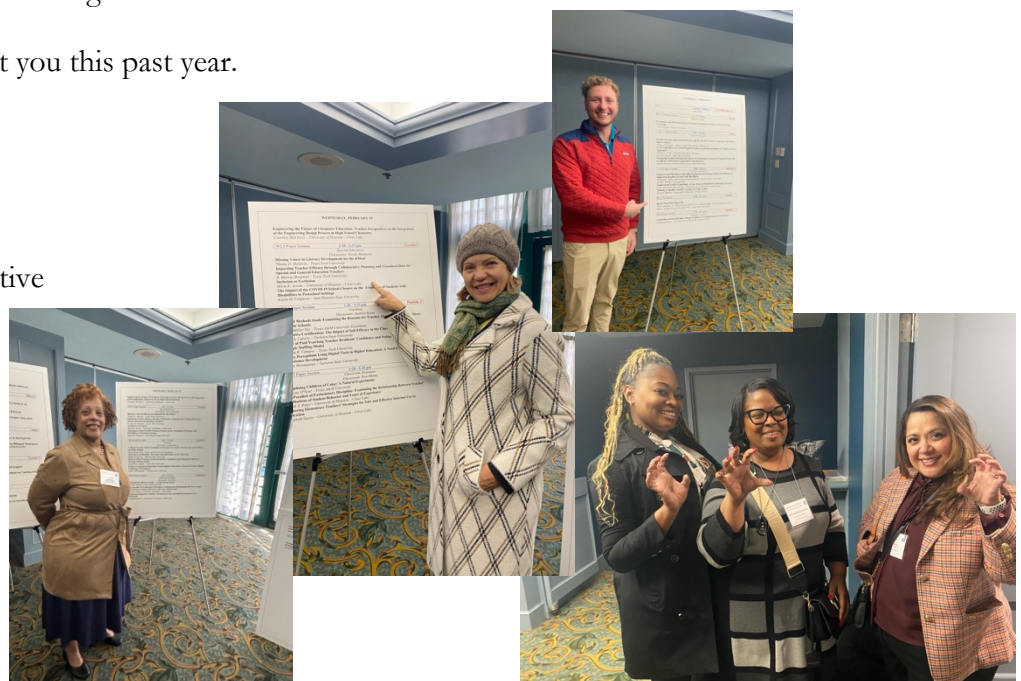
Sincerely,

Tina Lancaster

Past Graduate Student Representative
East Texas A&M University



Tina Lancaster
East 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
- Collaborate with a designated mentor. Applicants are encouraged to collaborate with a mentor through the SERA Mentoring Initiative.



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.

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. Application requirements are listed on the SERA website.

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.



Chrissy Cross
Stephen F. Austin State
University

Reporting requirements

All Research Grantees will be required to submit a SERA proposal and send a copy of the proposal to the Executive Director. In order to receive the final grant funds (see funding disbursement), a manuscript, in article format with the quality for submission to a peer-reviewed journal, must be submitted by the first day of the February Annual Conference the following year. For example, an award made in 2025 would require grant recipients to submit their manuscript prior to the 2026 annual conference.

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.

Application Deadlines

Applications for these Research Grants will be open once a year. Grant proposals must be submitted to the Grant Coordinator, Chrissy Cross at crossc1@sfasu.edu, and the SERA Executive Director, Forrest Lane at forrest.lane@sfasu.edu, by May 1 of each year and awardees will be selected by June 1.

Ask the SERA Historian...

SERA graduate student member Priscilla Farktoasthoustonhousen writes in to ask the SERA Historian:

"Dear Dr. SERA Historian: At the SERA annual luncheon, lottery drawings are held to award free room nights in the conference hotel to 15-20 students present at the annual SERA luncheon. I can sort of figure out why one requirement for free room night eligibility is presence at the luncheon when the lottery drawings are conducted. But why is there a second eligibility requirement that students be officially registered in the conference hotel (for example, as opposed to unofficially sleeping in a friend's hotel room closet or bathtub, or staying in another hotel)? Thank you in advance for your insightful explanation."

Dr. SERA Historian responds:

Well, Priscilla, there are two reasons:

1. When SERA contracts with the conference hotel for meeting room space and hotel room nights, SERA contracts that a certain number of hotel room nights will be booked by SERA members in exchange for free or reduced cost meeting room space. If the contracted number of room nights are not booked by SERA members, then SERA must nevertheless itself pay for those unused room nights. This can easily cost many thousands of



Congratulations to the winners of a free room night at the conference hotel!

dollars. This has sadly happened in the past. So SERA tries to do everything it can to motivate people to stay in the conference hotel.

2. The mechanism by which SERA pays for the room nights is to pay the hotel to credit the bills of the room night winners directly, rather than issuing numerous checks to the winners. This insures that (a) room night winners indeed are registered in the hotel and (b) the SERA Treasurer doesn't have to write 15-20 additional checks beyond the dozens of checks he already has to write (e.g., to the hotel for food, to numerous Dean's award winners, the invited speaker for travel expenses). Furthermore, tragically the SERA Treasurer has profound chronic carpal tunnel syndrome, and is already barely able to write the checks she already has to write.

Bruce Thompson

SERA Historian and Executive Director Emeritus



Bruce Thompson
SERA Executive Director Emeritus
and Historian



Graduate Student News

Dear Graduate Student SERA Members,

Hola! Hello! Hi! My name is **Shelby Sharpe**, Graduate Student from Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi. I had the pleasure of serving as a Campus Representative from Texas A&M University -Corpus Christi during the 2024 school year. Now, I am thrilled to serve as your Graduate Student Representative for the Board in 2025. As the Graduate Student Representative to the Board and on behalf of the SERA Board of Directors, thank you for helping make the 48th Annual SERA Conference in San Antonio a great experience. Each volunteer, attendee and presenter made an impact and created an environment of intellectual discourse.

I would like to thank the 2024-2025 SERA Graduate Student Representative to the Board, **Erik Torres** from Sam Houston State University and **Tina Lancaster** from Texas A&M Commerce, for their combined service to all SERA Graduate Students and to the SERA Board of Directors. Thank you, for keeping the SERA Graduate Student Representatives apprised of news and due dates throughout the year. I have big shoes to fill but am lucky to have you both as trusted guides. Secondly, I would like to recognize the outgoing Campus Representatives: **Shelby Sharpe** (TAMUCC), **Festus Fajuyigbe** (UHCL), **Ericca Douglas** (SHSU), **Tina Lancaster** (TAMUC), **Carol Miller-Nix** (TAMU-Texarkana), **Elizabeth Dees** (TTU). Thank you all for your service to not only your universities' educational work, but to the educational field. The work you do matters to the future of education locally and around the world.

As we look forward to the next SERA conference, we pass along the torch to new Graduate Student Representatives. I would like to recognize the following students as their universities' representatives: **Shelby Sharpe** (TAMUCC), **Esther Herrera** (UHCL), **Samba Goddard** (SHSU), **Kayode Ufomanefe** (TTU), and **Lynette O'Neal** (Member at Large). As a representative, duties will include: (a) Contact and solicit money from your university to pay for the Dean's Awards, (b) Score Dean's Award papers

prior to conference, and (c) Support during the 49th Annual SERA Conference.

The 49th Annual SERA Conference will be held Wednesday, Wed. Feb 18th through Friday

Feb 20th, 2026, in New Orleans, LA. If you attended the 48th conference in San Antonio, Texas, you were able to experience the close-knit community of graduate students from the universities represented at SERA. Through your contributions to presentations, workshops, and presence, we grow as a community of educators. Division VI provides the opportunity for graduate students to receive feedback on their work in progress. As a graduate student, you are eligible to submit your papers, or works in progress, for Dean's Awards and/or the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award. A call for proposals will be communicated at a later date with additional details.

Feel free to contact me, or your campus representatives, if you have any questions about SERA 2026. See you guys next year in New Orleans!

Shelby Sharpe

SERA Graduate Student Representative to the Board
Texas A&M University – Corpus Christi
shelby.sharpe@tamucc.edu



Shelby Sharpe
Texas A&M – Corpus Christi

"SERA is a tight-knit community offering a networking opportunity with other members from Texas and surrounding areas. Graduate students witness the work done across various interests that all lead back to improving education. Spread the word!"

SERA Annual Meeting: New Orleans, LA

The SERA Executive Board is pleased to announce that the 49th Annual SERA Conference will be held at the Hotel Monteleone in New Orleans from Wednesday, February 18, 2026, to Friday, February 20, 2026.



Ryan Glaman
Tarleton State University

The SERA conference is a great outlet to exchange research ideas and network with other scholars in your field and across the region. We invite proposals on all topics related to education. Please review the attached 2026 Call for Proposals for more details and submit your proposal on the SERA website by September 28, 2025.

The conference will feature various professional development opportunities for scholars of all levels, including workshops and other sessions.

We are excited to welcome **Jill Perry**, Professor of Practice at the University of Pittsburgh and Executive Director of the Carnegie Project on the Education Doctorate, as the 2026 Presidential Invited Speaker for the presidential address. Graduate students will also have the opportunity to participate in a Fireside Chat with our Presidential Invited Speaker immediately following her address.

Faculty are also encouraged to participate in the SERA Early Career Faculty Mentoring Initiative. The purposes of this initiative include: (a) furthering scholarly research, (b) supporting career advancement, and (c)

enhancing leadership opportunities for junior faculty. This initiative plays a vital role in expanding the SERA membership and providing future leaders, and we are grateful for **Michelle Peters** and **Tonya Jeffreys** for their leadership. If you seek a mentor or are interested in serving as a mentor, please complete the application found on the SERA Website by clicking on the link in the Early Career Faculty Mentoring Initiative section: <http://sera-edresearch.org/>.

We also encourage assistant professors within 4-year institutions and/or doctoral students to consider applying for the SERA Research Grants program by the May 1 deadline. Awardees are provided a \$1000 grant to fund their research and provided an opportunity present at the 2026 conference. Interested individuals are encouraged to view the grant proposal guidelines available on the SERA webpage: <http://sera-edresearch.org/>.

The Hotel Monteleone is a favorite of those of us who have been SERA members for many years. Located in the French Quarter, the Hotel Monteleone is within walking distance from several great food, jazz, and drink options. It is a fantastic venue, and we look forward to your participation at the 2026 conference in New Orleans.



Hotel Monteleone in the New Orleans

Ryan Glaman

President-Elect and Program Chair
Tarleton State University

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).

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	Susan Troncoso Skidmore <i>Sam Houston State University</i>	Members-at-Large: 2022 – 2025	Bethanie Pletcher <i>Texas A&M University—Corpus Christi</i>
Executive Director Emeritus, Historian	Bruce Thompson <i>Texas A&M University</i>		Carol Waters <i>University of Houston—Clear Lake</i>
Executive Director Emerita, 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.

Welcome to Our New Elected Board Members

Anthony Edwards serves as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Technology at Tarleton State University. Anthony's teaching assignments include Higher Education Leadership, Higher Education Student Services, Higher Education Finance, Higher Education Policy and Politics, Higher Education History, and The Comprehensive Community College. Anthony previously served as Director of Tarleton Online at Tarleton State University, a professor of Biology at Panola College, Senior Vice President of Talent at the Fort Worth Chamber of Commerce, and Science Department Chair at Granbury High School. Dr. Edwards also served as a secondary science teacher in Fort Worth ISD and Huckabay ISD. Anthony's research agenda focuses on organizational change in higher education with respect to strategic planning, STEM education, higher education marketing, academic advising, and educational technology. Anthony has published manuscripts in the *Journal of Higher Education Management* and the *HLAPS Educator*. In addition to chairing dissertation committees, Anthony supports student success as coordinator of the higher education leadership concentration of the Master of Education program in Educational Administration.



Chrissy Cross is a professor in the department of Education Studies at Stephen F. Austin State University. In her current position as an assistant chair for the Secondary Education Programs she focuses on grant writing, research in STEM teacher education, and responsive program leadership to changing state and federal education laws, institutional expectations, and social movements. Her research areas include STEM pre-service teacher education, qualitative research methods in educational settings and grants. As a member of the American Educational Research Association, she has served as the Chair, Program Chair and Program Co-Chair for the Science Teaching and Learning Special Interest Group. She also serves as the appointed SERA Research Grants co-coordinator.

Peter Boedeker is the Assistant Dean of Medical Education Research and Scholarship at Baylor College of Medicine (BCM). He supports faculty across BCM in the development, implementation, and evaluation of medical and health professions education innovations. With a background in research design for causal inference, applied statistics, and program evaluation, Peter enjoys working collaboratively on research and evaluation projects of educational significance. In addition to his collaborative work at BCM, he is a research mentor for the International Association of Medical Science Educators (IAMSE) Education Scholarship Fellowship Program and grants manager for the IAMSE Education Scholarship Committee. He also serves on the Best Evidence in Medical Education Council and is a methods editor for the Campbell Collaboration's Education Coordinating Group. He teaches a course on teaching in the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences at BCM as well as an elective for first year medical students on meta-analysis.



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

Preview of 2026 Conference – New Orleans, LA!

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/>

**Join us at the Hotel Monteleone
New Orleans, LA
February 18 – 20, 2026**

Important Dates	
2025	
Deadline for receipt of SERA Research Grant Proposals	May 1
SERA Research Grant Awardees are notified	June 1
SERA Proposal System Opens	Early August
SERA Proposals Due	September 28
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

SOUTHWEST EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION

CALL FOR PROPOSALS FOR THE

2026 ANNUAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 18-20, 2026

HOTEL MONTELEONE

NEW ORLEANS, LA

PROGRAM CHAIR

Ryan Glaman

Tarleton State University

1333 W. Washington St.

Stephenville, TX 76401

glaman@tarleton.edu

GENERAL INFORMATION

The 49th Annual Meeting of the Southwest Educational Research association will be held

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18 THROUGH FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2026

At the Hotel Monteleone • 214 Royal Street • New Orleans, LA 70130

Tel: (504) 523-3341 • <https://hotelmonteleone.com/>

Proposals are requested for the 2026 SERA Annual Meeting on topics from all disciplines related to education. Proposals must be submitted online at <http://sera-edresearch.org> by **Sunday, September 28, 2025**. Current SERA membership is not required for proposal submission, but **all** authors and coauthors of accepted proposals must register and pay the registration fee for the conference.

PROPOSAL FORMAT

Proposals should be no longer than **2 single-spaced pages** and include an abstract of up to 100 words. Only **original work** that has not been previously published or presented (at SERA or another professional meeting) will be eligible for consideration. *The general principle is that SERA is **not** a venue for reporting work already reported either elsewhere, or previously.* Questions regarding proposals, including the originality of the work, should be directed to the Program Chair.

Note that up to 12 coauthors may be included on a proposal submission. To be included on the proposal, authors and coauthors should make a substantial contribution to the work. Additionally, all authors and coauthors will be required to register for the annual meeting, regardless of whether they present.

Each proposal submission should include 2-3 keywords that describe the submission. The proposal system provides the following suggested terms that authors may use.

Achievement	Early Childhood	Learning	Reading
Adult Education	Education	Learning Styles	Reflective Thinking
Arts	Educational Reform	Mathematics Education	Research Methods
At-Risk Students	Effective Schools	Minority Recruitment	Schools
Attitudes	Efficacy	Minority Retention	School Environment
Classroom Management	English Education	Multicultural Education	School Improvement
Clinical Issues	Evaluation	Novice/Expert Studies	School Restructuring
Cognition	Exceptional Education	Parent Education	Science Education
College Students	Field Experience	Parent Involvement	Self Perception
Computer Education	Finance	Performance Assessment	Social Sciences
Constructivism	Gender Issues	Policy	Statistics
Critical Thinking	Gifted Education	Post-Secondary	Student Motivation
Culture	Higher Education	Education	Student
Curriculum	In-service Education	Preschool Education	Violence/Conflict
Development	Instruction	Preservice Education	Teacher Characteristics
Discipline	International Education	Principals	Technology
Drug Education	Language	Private Schools	Tests
		Professional	Vocational Education
		Development	

SESSION TYPES

Proposals are requested for the following session types.

Paper Sessions

Paper session presentations report the results of a completed paper. Presenters will have 11-13 minutes to provide a summary of the completed paper. Copies of the completed papers must be shared in hard copy at the presentation or via the repository.

Proposals for paper sessions should include (a) a statement of the problem, (b) perspective(s) or a theoretical framework, (c) methods and procedures, (d) results and conclusions, and (e) the educational or scientific importance of the study.

Symposia

A symposium consists of a set of paper presentations that is organized by the symposium organizer. A symposium is generally allotted 75 minutes for the set of paper presentations. The symposium organizer is responsible for identifying a topic(s), soliciting presenters, and, if appropriate, arranging a discussant(s) for the symposium session. The organizer is also responsible for notifying other symposium presenters of the disposition of the proposal.

Proposals for a symposium should include (a) objectives of the symposium, (b) summaries of the point of view or conclusion(s) to be drawn from each presenter, (c) a statement regarding the scientific or educational

importance of the symposium, and (d) a list of the symposium presenters (including a discussant, if appropriate) and their institutional affiliations. Each symposium paper should have a title and a given set of authors.

Tutorials/Training Sessions

Tutorials or training sessions provide instruction and/or information on a specific topic in approximately 50 minutes.

Proposals for a tutorial or training session should include (a) a statement of the topic, (b) perspective(s) or importance of the topic, (c) information about the topic, and (d) how it might be applied to a research project.

Innovative Format Sessions

Proposals for innovative format sessions are encouraged, but may be limited based on scheduling considerations. Innovative format sessions could include, but are not limited to, structured debates or round table discussions.

Proposals for innovative format sessions should include an explanation of (a) how the format will be structured and (b) what topics or issues will be discussed. A list of presenters should be included in the proposal.

Research in Progress Seminars (Graduate Students ONLY)

To encourage participation by graduate students, seminars will be scheduled to allow graduate students to summarize research proposals, including theses or dissertations **still in the developmental stage that have not yet been defended**. Authorship on Research in Progress proposals are limited to students and should not include a faculty co-author. In these sessions, a distinguished researcher will act as a discussant to provide feedback to students.

Proposals for research in progress seminars should include (a) statement of the problem, (b) significance of the study, and (c) a description of the proposed methods and procedures.

If accepted for presentation, authors are expected to send copies of their full seminar papers to the session discussant on or before January 8, 2026.

Note: Research that will be completed prior to the conference is not appropriate for submission for a Research in Progress (Division VI) seminar, but is welcome as a submission to any of the other five divisions.

DIVISIONS

Proposals in any session type should be submitted to one of the following Divisions for consideration. Questions regarding a division may be submitted to the following division co-chairs.

DIVISIONS

Proposals in any session type should be submitted to one of the following Divisions for consideration. Questions regarding a division may be submitted to the following division co-chairs.

I. Educational Administration, Policy, Leadership, & Program Evaluation

Audrey Meador

West Texas A&M University

ameador@wtamu.edu

Ron Rhone

Tarleton State University

rrhone@tarleton.edu

II. Instruction, Learning & Cognition

Julie Mills

East Texas A&M University

Julie.Mills@tamuc.edu

Sandra Nite

Texas A&M University

s-nite@tamu.edu

III. Methodology, Measurement & Evaluation

Tommy De Vaney

Southeastern Louisiana

tdevaney@selu.edu

Lisa Dryden

Texas Wesleyan University

ldryden@txwes.edu

IV. Teachers & Teacher Education

Crystal Rose

Tarleton State University

rose@tarleton.edu

Julia Yoo

Lamar University

hyoo@lamar.edu

V. Special Populations & Counseling

Nara Martirosyan

Sam Houston State University

nxm021@shsu.edu

Monica Wong-Ratcliff

Texas A&M University – Kingsville

Monica.Ratcliff@tamuk.edu

VI. Graduate Student Seminars for Research in Progress

Anthony Edwards

Tarleton State University

aedwards@tarleton.edu

Karen McIntush

University of Houston

kemcintu@central.uh.edu

PHOTOGRAPHY RELEASE

Submission of a proposal by an author or coauthor constitutes a release for the SERA organization to take photographs and/or videos of meeting participants and presenters while in public spaces, which then may be displayed on the organization's website, in newsletters, and/or during the annual meeting.

CALL FOR VOLUNTEER REVIEWERS

Please consider volunteering to review proposal submissions for divisions within your areas of expertise. Individuals willing to review proposals are encouraged to note their interest in the proposal submission system or pass their interest along to a division chair(s).

CONFERENCE REGISTRATION

All authors and co-authors are **strictly required** to register for the annual conference by **October 12** for check/purchase order payments and **October 19** for PayPal payments for proposals to be considered. Proposal submissions will be rejected if authors or co-authors fail to register for the conference and submit payment by the payment deadline. *Include as co-authors only persons who have made a substantial contribution to the paper. All persons who benefit from the presentation of papers at the annual meeting (i.e., all authors and co-authors) are expected to contribute to our scholarly community by helping to pay association conference expenses (i.e., register/pay annual dues).*

Conference registration payment by all authors/co-authors is a condition for proposal review, includes annual dues, and is **not** otherwise refundable unless all of an individual's proposals are rejected. Affected individuals must contact the SERA Treasurer to request a refund by December 1, 2025; requests must include (a) a copy of the proposal rejection(s), (b) registration receipt, and a (c) postal mailing address to which the refund should be sent.

PROPOSAL NOTIFICATIONS

Proposal notifications will be sent to authors and coauthors around the first week of November following the proposal submission deadline. The draft program will be posted on the SERA website in early December, and the final program will be posted in January prior to the conference.

CONSIDERATIONS FOLLOWING PROPOSAL ACCEPTANCE

Presentations

Authors and co-authors are required to register for the annual meeting and principal authors are expected to present their papers in person. There is not a virtual presentation option. If circumstances prevent principal authors from presenting, they must designate a substitute to make their presentations in person.

Sessions Chairs

A session presenter will oftentimes be selected as a Session Chair, which will be denoted by an asterisk in the program. Sessions Chairs are asked to facilitate timekeeping for the session.

Scheduling of Sessions

Sessions are grouped by category and scheduled accordingly. For planning purposes, note that the first session of the conference begins at approximately noon on the first day.

Distributing Papers

Presenters in paper sessions are required to share their completed papers with the membership, either by (a) distributing 10-15 printed copies at the presentation, or (b) uploading the completed paper to the SERA Paper Repository. Most papers comprise 10-18 pages of narrative, references, and many have tables and/or figures. All papers should have a cover page listing the title and authors; the cover page should also contain the note “Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Southwest Educational Research Association, New Orleans, LA. February (date), 2026.” The session number provided in the final program (e.g., W1.2) should also be noted in the upper right-hand corner of the cover page.

Presentation Technology

All meeting rooms at the annual conference will be equipped with an LCD projector, a VGA cable (3-row, 15-pin connector), and a projector screen (see picture). Presenters are responsible for providing laptops as well as VGA or other adapters for their computers, as needed. Some cables and adapters may be available for use on site, but are not guaranteed. Also, wireless internet connections may not be available in all rooms. Presenters are strongly encouraged to bring their presentations on flash drives or other offline storage devices.



Award Submissions

Authors and co-authors are encouraged to submit their original works for consideration for one or more of the following awards, as eligible.

- 2026 Linda Reichwein Zientek Outstanding Paper Award –due January 3, 2026
- 2026 SERA Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award – due January 8, 2026
- 2026 SERA Outstanding Undergraduate Student Paper Award - due January 8, 2026
- 2026 SERA Deans' Awards for Exceptional Graduate Student Research - due January 8, 2026

More detailed information, including eligibility information, is provided for each award on the following pages.

2026 SERA LINDA REICHWEIN ZIENTEK OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARD

Authors are encouraged to email copies of the paper submitted for presentation at the 2026 annual meeting to the SERA Executive Director, Forrest Lane, by **NOON, January 3, 2026. Please note that the competition is for completed research only** (Division I through V paper submissions). The winner of the LINDA REICHWEIN ZIENTEK Outstanding Paper Award will be announced in the newsletter, be recognized at the luncheon during the 2026 SERA annual meeting, and present the paper at one of the sessions of Outstanding Papers from the State and Regional Research Associations at the annual meeting of the American Educational Research Association in 2026. A stipend of \$1000 to help defray the costs involved in attending the AERA meeting will be awarded to the winner.

Rules for Outstanding Paper Award Competition

Authors must submit both a full version and a blinded version of their paper via email to the Executive Director, Forrest Lane, forrest.lane@sfasu.edu for consideration.

The Executive Director must receive completed papers on or before the deadline. Late papers are not eligible for consideration. At the discretion of the Executive Board, an award may not be made if fewer than 3 meritorious papers are submitted for competition, or if the award committee deems that no award should be made. Should this occur, all participants will be advised that the award will not be made.

- An individual may submit only one paper on which the member is a co-author. Papers with any common co-authors will not be considered.
- Papers will not be considered for the award unless all co-authors have paid preregistration fees by the October deadline for payment receipt.
- Persons who authored the SERA Outstanding Paper in the immediate prior year are not eligible for award consideration in the following year.
- Active officers of the SERA Executive Council, including appointed officers, are not eligible for this competition.

Email papers to:

Forrest Lane, SERA Executive Director

SUBJECT LINE: 2026 SERA Outstanding Paper Award

forrest.lane@sfasu.edu

2026 SERA OUTSTANDING GRADUATE STUDENT PAPER AWARD

An award of \$750 and a certificate will be given for the best paper presented by a graduate 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. Student authors should electronically submit completed copies of their papers to the SERA President to be received by **January 8, 2026**. The award winner will be recognized during the Thursday luncheon at the SERA 2026 conference. Please note that the Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award competition is for completed graduate student research (i.e., ONLY Division I through V papers), and may include theses or dissertations, as well as other graduate student research. Students who present thesis or dissertation research should submit a condensed version of the work, not the full thesis or dissertation. Work in-progress presented in graduate student seminars (i.e., Division VI) is not eligible for this award, nor are preliminary works, such as literature reviews or class projects and proposals.

Rules for Graduate Student Paper Award Competition

- Papers are limited to 30 pages including references (tables and figures excluded).
- Authors must submit both a full version and a blinded version by e-mail to the SERA President.
- The SERA President must receive completed papers on or before the **January 8, 2026**, deadline. Late papers are not eligible for consideration.
- If multiple authors write the paper, the first author must be a graduate student.
- The first author must be a graduate student and the completed paper must not have been submitted to Division VI. This must be stated in your submission e-mail to the SERA President.
- Papers will not be considered for the award unless all co-authors have preregistered by the October deadline for payment receipt.
- At the discretion of the award committee, an award may not be made if there was not at least 1 meritorious paper that was submitted for competition. Should this occur, all participants will be advised that the award will not be made.
- Graduate students must indicate their student status on the title page of the paper.
- The Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award competition is for completed graduate student research.

Send completed papers for 2026 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award

by E-MAIL ATTACHMENT ONLY to:

Lesley Leach

Tarleton State University

leach@tarleton.edu <mailto:shaun.hutchins@tamu.edu>

2026 SERA OUTSTANDING UNDERGRADUATE STUDENT PAPER AWARD

Members of the Southwest Education Research Association (SERA) recognize the importance of promoting undergraduate student scholarship. At SERA, undergraduate students gain opportunities to connect with faculty to strengthen scholarship and prepare for post baccalaureate studies including graduate school. SERA is an engaging community of scholars dedicated to the development and success of students at all levels. SERA is an excellent avenue for students to present their in-progress and completed research and develop their emerging research skills. Undergraduate students who attend the annual meeting and conference will find that SERA is student friendly.

An award of \$500 and a certificate 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. Student authors should electronically submit completed copies of their papers to the individual listed at the bottom of this page, the undergraduate paper person of contact (POC), to be received by, **January 8, 2026**. The award winner will be recognized during the Thursday luncheon at the SERA 2026 conference. Please note that 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. Please edit submissions to comply with the paper guidelines outlined below. Work in-progress presented in Division VI is not eligible for this award, nor are preliminary works, such as literature reviews or class projects and proposals.

Rules for Undergraduate Student Paper Award Competition

- Papers are limited to 30 pages including references (tables and figures excluded).
- Authors must submit both a full version and a blinded version by e-mail to the POC.
- The POC must receive completed papers on or before the January 8, 2026, deadline. Late papers are not eligible for consideration.
- The first author must be an undergraduate student, and the completed paper must **not** have been submitted to Division VI. This must be stated in the submission e-mail to the POC.
- Papers will not be considered for the award unless all co-authors have registered by the October deadline for payment receipt.
- Although faculty are allowed as co-authors on the undergraduate student papers, all award money will be awarded to student authors.
- At the discretion of the award committee, an award may not be made if there was not at least 1 meritorious paper that was submitted for competition. Also, at least 5 undergraduate students must be registered for the conference or the award may not be made.
- Undergraduate students must indicate their student status on the title page of the paper.

Send completed papers for 2026 Outstanding Undergraduate Student Paper Award
by E-MAIL ATTACHMENT ONLY to:

Lesley Leach

Tarleton State University

leach@tarleton.edu <mailto:shaun.hutchins@tamu.edu>

2026 SERA DEANS' AWARDS FOR EXCEPTIONAL GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCH

Approximately fifteen \$150 awards and certificates will be given for graduate student research papers based on their contribution to educational research.

Dean's awards will be given to students from universities that choose to participate in this opportunity. There are at most two awards given per participating university. The respective Dean of the College of Education for each university sponsors these awards. An e-mail will be sent to members in the Fall announcing the final list of participating universities.

Eligibility

To be eligible, a student must be from one of the participating universities and must attend the 2026 SERA annual meeting. Student authors should electronically submit completed papers to the SERA graduate student representative to be RECEIVED BY **January 8, 2026**.

Submission Criteria

These awards are for completed graduate student research or research work in-progress (i.e., papers submitted to any division, I through VI). Papers can be in any form; literature reviews, explanations of statistical concepts, case studies and will be judged from the perspective of how it will further the theory of educational research.

The awards will be announced during the Thursday luncheon at the SERA 2026.

Rules for the Deans' Awards Competition

- The SERA graduate student representative must receive completed papers on or before the January 8, 2026, deadline. Late papers are not eligible for consideration.
- The paper must be authored **only** by graduate students.
- If multiple authors write the papers, the choice can be made for the award to be given to the first author or split among all the authors.
- At the discretion of the awards committee, an award may not be made if fewer than 3 meritorious papers are submitted for competition from that university. Should this occur, all participants will be advised that the award will not be made. Also, awards will not be given for institutions at which Deans decide not to participate.
- If you do not receive a receipt confirmation via email by **January 8, 2026**, authors should contact the graduate student representative immediately.

Send completed papers for the 2026 Deans'
Awards by E-MAIL ATTACHMENT ONLY to:

Shelby Sharpe
Texas A&M University Corpus Christi
Shelby.sharpe@tamucc.edu