



SERA Newsletter

Southwest Educational Research Association

The Prez Says...

Inside this issue:

The Prez Says	1-2
News from the Past President	3
SERA Linda Reichwein Zientek Award	4
SERA Outstanding Grad Student Paper	4
Reflections from the Executive Director	5
Dean's Awards	6
Research Grant Award Winners	7
Past Graduate Representative Report	8
SERA Research Grants	9
SERA Historian	10
2025 Annual Meeting Preview	11
2025 Presidential Invited Address	12
Meet the Board	13
New Board Members	14
Graduate Student Council	15
Preview of 2025 Conference	16
Important Dates	17
2025 Call for Proposals	18-27

Thank you to everyone for making the 49th Annual SERA Conference in New Orleans a huge success! We had roughly 150 sessions, including workshops, paper presentations, and student research-in-progress presentations, presented by over 250 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 using AI tools in education research, and conducting a high-quality literature review. Thank you to our scholarly trainers, Peter Boedeker, Grant Morgan, Shirley Matteson, and Audrey Meador!



Ryan Glaman
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, Lesley Leach, 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 Executive Director Forrest Lane, and Executive Director Emerita and Deputy Historian Linda Zientek. 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, Juanita Reyes, Julie Mills, Sandra Nite, Tommy DeVaney, Lisa Dryden, Crystal Rose, Julia Yoo, Nara Martirosyan, Monica Wong-Ratcliff, Anthony Edwards, and Karen Graham. 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 15 discussants who shared their research expertise with the Division VI work-in-progress presenters. Discussants included Jesus Abrego, Michelle Abrego, Peter Boedeker, Anthony Edwards, Shaun Hutchins, Forrest Lane, Sara Lawrence, Lesley Leach, Karen Graham, Audrey Meador, Nicole Mishnick, Juanita Reyes, Crystal Rose, Celia Scott, and Carol Waters.

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

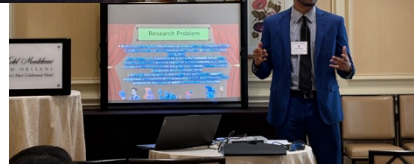
I want to extend a special thank you to Linda Zientek for serving as the local arrangements chair. Lynette O'Neal, Graduate Student Representative, ensured that the papers submitted for the Dean's Awards were reviewed in a timely manner and organized several graduate student activities. The audio-visual 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 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, 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. Amy Ray, 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 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 50th (holy smokes!) annual conference will be held on February 17-19, 2027 in San Antonio at the Menger Hotel. Planning is underway, and information on the conference and submitting proposals is provided later in this newsletter. I hope to see you all in San Antonio for what is sure to be a great and memorable 50th annual conference!

Ryan Glaman

SERA President
Tarleton State University



There were many fantastic presentations by faculty and graduate students!

News from Our Past President

SERA 2026 felt different. Not just because of the outstanding scholarship, meaningful conversations, and record energy in the rooms — but because we are standing at the edge of something significant. Next year, SERA will celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Fifty years of advancing educational research.
Fifty years of mentoring emerging scholars.
Fifty years of collegial debate, collaboration, and community.

As I reflect on this year's conference, it occurs to me that SERA's strength is in its members and their commitment to the mission of the organization — members who return year after year, graduate students who find their scholarly voice here, and leaders who quietly ensure that the organization remains strong and forward-looking.

Thank you to every member who presented research, facilitated workshops, participated in symposiums, and shared innovative ideas. Your scholarship continues to move our field forward, and your willingness to engage with one another is what makes SERA distinctive.

Behind the scenes, extraordinary leadership made this year's annual meeting possible. Thank you to our Program Chair, Ryan Glaman, who curated an outstanding and extensive program. Thank you to our Local Arrangements Chair, Linda Zientek, who managed the many moving parts with precision and care. We are deeply grateful to Shirley Matteson and Stephen Gruber for their continued excellence in AV support. We extend appreciation to Executive Director, Forrest Lane, for his strong leadership as well as Executive Director Emeritus and Historian Bruce Thompson and Executive Director Emerita and Deputy Historian Linda Zientek for safeguarding the history and mission of SERA. Thank you to

Lynette O'Neal for her leadership as the Graduate Student Board representative, and to the various reviewers who ensured the integrity and rigor of our award selections.



Lesley Leach
Tarleton State University

Congratulations to Bridget Matamoros (Texas A&M University), recipient of the Linda Reichwein Zientek Outstanding Paper Award, and to Masoud Askarnia, Jongpil Cheon, Afsaneh Abbaszadeh, Min Huang, and Clever Mukombe (Texas Tech University), recipients of the Outstanding Graduate Student Award.

As we look ahead to SERA 2027 in San Antonio at the historic Menger Hotel, we are not simply planning another conference. We are preparing to celebrate 50 years of scholarship and community — and to imagine the organization's direction for the next 50 years. Under the leadership of our incoming President, Ryan Glaman, and the SERA Board, I am confident that this milestone year will honor our history and chart a strong path forward.

It has been a privilege to serve this organization. Thank you for the trust, the collaboration, and the shared commitment to advancing educational research. See you in San Antonio in 2027!

Lesley Leach

Immediate Past President
Tarleton State University

2026 SERA Linda Reichwein Zientek Outstanding Paper Award

Congratulations to **Bridget R. Matamoros-Mota**, *Texas A&M University*, who was selected as our 2026 Linda Reichwein Zientek Outstanding Paper awardees for her paper entitled “To be Parametric or Not to be Parametric, That is the Question: Analyzing Likert Response Data.” She will present this work at the 2027 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.



Forrest Lane (left) presents the award to **Bridget R. Matamoros-Mota** (right), *Texas A&M University*

Paper Summary: Nonparametric methods are too often viewed as a backup plan when traditional parametric methods fail. But when applied to Likert items, why not use nonparametric methods first? This simulation study seeks to challenge the assumption of intervalists that 5-point Likert options are perceived as equally-spaced and therefore open to parametric analysis. Instead, results indicate that survey responses tend to be more nuanced and do not adhere to assumptions of normality. This illustrates the importance of utilizing nonparametric methods in the Likert scale space and emphasizes the importance of including a qualitative strand in educational research when conducting Likert item analysis.

2026 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award

Congratulations to **Masoud Askarnia, Jongpil Cheon, Afsaneh Abbaszadeh, Min Huang, and Clever Mukombe**, *Texas Tech University* who were selected to receive the 2026 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award. Their paper is entitled “Exploring Research Themes in Artificial Intelligence Education Using Non-Negative Matrix Factorization.”

Paper Summary: This study employs computational text analysis to examine research themes in Artificial Intelligence in Education (AIED) over the past decade. Using Non-Negative Matrix Factorization (NMF), peer-reviewed articles from the Web of Science (2016–2025) will be analyzed to identify latent themes and trace their evolution. The analysis will examine thematic structures across abstracts and keywords, providing a scalable approach to synthesizing scholarly discourse. Anticipated outcomes include the identification of persistent themes, emerging research clusters, and underexplored gaps, contributing to a systematic understanding of AIED’s development.



Lesley Leach (middle) presents the award to **Masoud Askarnia** (left) and **Clever Mukombe** (right)

Reflections from the Executive Director

I extend my sincere appreciation to everyone who contributed to making this year's SERA Conference in New Orleans such a success. The dedication of the SERA Board and our many volunteers ensured that the event ran smoothly, and I am grateful for their hard work. Sessions were well attended, research was thoughtfully shared, and the spirit of collaboration that defines SERA was evident throughout our 49th annual meeting. Thank you to all who continue to help make SERA a thriving scholarly community nearly five decades strong.

This year's program featured outstanding speakers and engaging scholarly presentations. Our Presidential Invited Speaker, Dr. Jill Perry—Executive Director of the Carnegie Project for the Education Doctorate and Professor of Practice at the University of Pittsburgh—delivered a compelling keynote on the role of the scholar-practitioner in education. Following her address, Dr. Perry participated in a fireside chat with graduate students, offering thoughtful insights and practical guidance.

Graduate students took advantage of numerous professional development opportunities, including sessions on research tools, survey development, and strategies for navigating the dissertation process. Members also engaged in specialized workshops focused on AI research tools and systematic reviews. In addition, recent graduates and early career scholars benefited from the SERA Early Career Mentoring Initiative. These offerings represent just a sample of the learning experiences available at this year's conference.

During the business meeting luncheon, we were proud to honor Linda Zientek with the John J. Hedl Jr. Lifetime Service Award. This

award recognizes exceptional service to SERA, and Linda's contributions over more than 20 years—including a decade as Executive Director—have left an indelible mark on the organization. We are pleased to acknowledge her remarkable commitment and leadership.



Forrest Lane
Stephen F. Austin State University

Looking ahead, excitement is already building for the 50th Annual SERA Conference, which will be held at the historic Menger Hotel in San Antonio. We are honored to welcome Dr. Patricia Alexander—SERA Past President (1988–1989) and Distinguished University Professor at the University of Maryland—as our keynote speaker. In addition to her address, Dr. Alexander will host an informal fireside chat for graduate students, providing a unique opportunity for conversation and mentorship.

The SERA Board looks forward to welcoming you and your colleagues to San Antonio. We encourage you to take full advantage of the opportunities to learn, collaborate, and grow at the 2027 SERA Conference.

Forrest Lane

SERA Executive Director
Stephen F. Austin State University

2026 Dean's Award Recipients

University of Houston – Clear Lake

The Effects of Local Government and Youth-Friendly Cities on African American Students in Poverty

Kanestra Bland

Overcoming Barriers to Dual Credit Access

Lisa Hudson

Texas Tech University

Linking Physics Identity and Resource Networks: An Exploratory Sequential Mixed Methods Proposal to Theorize Modern Physics Teacher Identity in Mexico

Arantxa Cepeda Lestrade

STEMming from the Joy of Mathematics: A Narrative Inquiry

Michelle Paradise Wood



Texas A&M – Texarkana

Enhancing Science Core Performance on Elementary Teacher Candidate Licensure Exams

James T. Bright

Humanizing Leadership in Conservative Contexts: Transgender Student Support in Northeast Texas Schools

Corbin Owens

Texas A&M – College Station

To be Parametric or Not to be Parametric, That is the Question: Analyzing Likert Response Data

Bridget R. Matamoros-Mota

Not like Us: An Analysis of Teacher Representation Impact on K-8 Science Identity

Jarrold G. Collins, Sr.

Sam Houston State University

Black Male Student Athletes' Selection of a Major and Courses

Megan Goforth

Bridging Home and School: The Role of Parental Involvement in Influencing the Behavioral Development of Fifth Graders

Dondra Lindsey

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 2026 Research Grant Winner!

Congratulations to Karen Walker, *East Texas A&M University*, the 2026 recipient of the SERA Assistant Professor Early Career Award! Karen presented her research titled, **Evaluating the Impact of a Data Visualization Professional Development Session on Early Childhood Educators**.

Paper Summary:

This research proposes to evaluate the impact of a 1-hour online professional development (PD) session designed to introduce data visualization concepts and techniques to early childhood educators (ECEs). The study will utilize a pre- and posttest survey design to measure changes in ECEs' knowledge, perceived self-efficacy, and intended use of data visualization after participating in the PD.



Left to Right: Chrissy Cross, Karen Walker, Shirley Matteson

Are you a graduate student or assistant professor at a 4-year institution?

Do you want to earn a \$1,000 grant to support your work?

Find grant submission details on page 9 and submit your proposal by May 1st!

Graduate Student Representative Report

Another great year of SERA has come and gone. The 2026 conference in New Orleans, Louisiana 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: Sam Houston State University, Texas A&M University—College Station, Texas A&M University—Texarkana, Texas Tech University, and The University of Houston – Clear Lake. Thirty-six papers were submitted, and the authors of ten papers from the five universities received awards.



Lynette O'Neal
Texas A&M University

The members of this year's Graduate Student Council supported the organization of various duties throughout the conference beautifully, including serving as Greeters and photographers. Thank you to the graduate student representative from University of Houston-Clear Lake for providing swag to give as door prizes. A big thanks for this!

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: Lynette O'Neal and Bridget Matamoros (TAMU), Corbin Owens (TAMU-Texarkana), Masoud Askarnia (Texas Tech), Mary Roach (University of Alabama), Diiveanne Martinez and Sara Castillo (SHSU), Heather Alarcon (UHCL). 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 50th Annual SERA Conference.

The 50th Annual SERA Conference will be held in San Antonio, TX. If you attended the 49th conference in New Orleans, 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 2027. We look forward to seeing everyone next year in San Antonio!

Sincerely,

Lynette O'Neal
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.

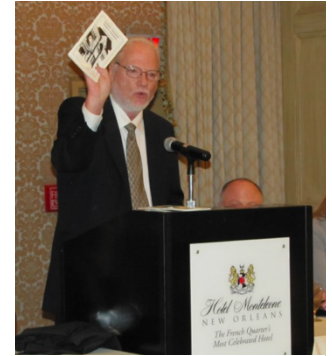
The *Unheralded* “Hero” of the 49th Annual SERA Conference: The SERA Banner

During the recent 49th annual meeting of the Southwest Educational Research Association I presented a brief history of SERA but I neglected to acknowledge an important SERA artifact. During the first few years of SERA both (1) the SERA logo and (2) the SERA banner (see photo) were created. That banner has hung over the conference registration table for



Lynette O'Neal, Sara Lawrence, Amy Ray, and Linda Zientek at the registration desk in the Hotel Monteleone

many, many years. And for many years SERA Presidents and later Executive Directors have lugged the banner home after the annual conference and put the banner into storage. I apologize to the SERA banner for having failed to acknowledge its presence and many years of service!



Bruce Thompson
SERA Executive Director Emeritus
and Historian

Bruce Thompson

SERA Historian and Executive Director Emeritus



At the business luncheon, **Linda Zientek** was awarded the SERA Bruce Thompson Extended Service Award for her dedication to the Southwest Educational Research Association.

Additionally, the business luncheon was an excellent opportunity for attendees to learn more about the association, for graduate students to win free-hotel nights during a raffle, and for colleagues to reconnect, all over a delicious meal!

SERA Annual Meeting: San Antonio, TX

The SERA Executive Board is pleased to announce that the 50th Annual SERA Conference will be held at the historic Menger Hotel in San Antonio from Wednesday, February 17, 2027, to Friday, February 19, 2027.

The SERA conference is a great outlet for exchanging research ideas and networking with other scholars in your field and across the region. We invite proposals on all education-related topics. Please review the attached 2027 Call for Proposals for more details, and submit your proposal on the SERA website by September 27, 2026. The conference will offer a range of professional development opportunities for scholars at all levels, including workshops and other sessions.

We are excited to welcome Patricia Alexander, an elected member of the National Academy of Education, an APA recipient of the Edward Lee Thorndike award, and the author of the theoretical framework Model of Domain Learning, as the 2027 Presidential Invited Speaker for the presidential address. Graduate students will also have the privilege of interacting directly with the Presidential Invited Speaker in a Fireside Chat immediately following the 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, (c) enhancing leadership opportunities for junior faculty, (d) networking opportunities, and (e) grant development, to name a few. This initiative plays a vital role in expanding the SERA membership and providing future leaders, and we are grateful to Michelle Peters and Tonya Jeffrey for their leadership. If you seek a

mentor or are interested in serving as a mentor, please visit the SERA website for more information:

<https://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 receive a \$1,000 grant to fund their research and the opportunity to present at the 2027 conference. Interested individuals are encouraged to view the grant proposal guidelines available on the SERA webpage: <https://sera-edresearch.org/mentoring-and-grants>.

As you consider outlets for your scholarly work in 2027, we hope you will consider joining us for the 2027 SERA annual conference in San Antonio. The setting, alongside the Riverwalk and adjacent to the Alamo, provides a festive backdrop for the SERA community to convene and learn from one another. We cannot wait to see you there!

Michelle Peters

President-Elect and Program Chair
University of Houston – Clear Lake



Michelle Peters
University of Houston, Clear Lake

2027 Presidential Invited Address



Patricia Alexander, Ph.D.

University of Maryland
Distinguished University Professor
Department of Human Development and Quantitative Methodology

Dr. Patricia Alexander is a Distinguished University Professor, the Jean Mullan Professor of Literacy, and a Distinguished Scholar-Teacher in the Department of Human Development and Quantitative Methodology at the University of Maryland, where she heads the Disciplined Reading and Learning Research Laboratory. She is a member of the National Academy of Education, and a Fellow of the American Psychological Association (APA), the American Educational Research Association (AERA), and the Society for Text and Discourse. Dr. Alexander's areas of expertise include learning, expertise development, relational reasoning, critical-analytic thinking, and medium and multimedia effects on learning. Named one of the five most influential educational psychologists over the past decade, Dr. Alexander's honors include the Oscar S. Causey Award for outstanding contributions to literacy research from the Literacy Research Association, the Career Achievement in Educational Psychology from APA Division 15, and the Sylvia Scribner Career Award from AERA Division C. She has published over 340 articles, books, chapters, and monographs in the area of learning and instruction and presented over 400 papers or invited addresses at national and international conferences. She serves on the editorial boards for 12 leading educational journals. Before becoming a college professor, she was a middle school teacher and reading specialist.

SERA Board Members and Appointments

President	Ryan Glaman <i>Tarleton State University</i>	Executive Director	Forrest Lane <i>Stephen F. Austin State University</i>
President-Elect/ Program Chair	Michelle Peters <i>University of Houston – Clear Lake</i>	Secretary: 2025 – 2028	Audrey Meador <i>West Texas A&M University</i>
Past-President	Lesley Leach <i>Tarleton State University</i>	Graduate Student Representative	Lynette O’Neal <i>Texas A&M University</i>
Treasurer	Grant Morgan <i>Baylor University</i>		Stephen Gruber <i>University of Houston – Clear Lake</i>
Director of Information Technology	Amy Ray <i>Sam Houston State University</i>	Members-at-Large: 2023 – 2026	Sara Lawrence <i>Texas A&M University – Texarkana</i>
Executive Director <i>Emeritus</i> , Historian	Bruce Thompson <i>Texas A&M University</i>		Amy Ray <i>Sam Houston State University</i>
Executive Director <i>Emerita</i> , Deputy Historian	Linda Zientek <i>Sam Houston State University</i>		Anthony Edwards <i>Tarleton State University</i>
Audio Visual	Shirley Matteson <i>Texas Tech University</i>	Members-at-Large: 2024 – 2027	Chrissy Cross <i>Stephen F. Austin State University</i>
SERA Early Career Research Grant Initiative	Chrissy Cross <i>Stephen F. Austin State University</i>		Peter Boedeker <i>Baylor College of Medicine</i>
	Shirley Matteson <i>Texas Tech University</i>		Mary Curtis <i>University of Houston – Clear Lake</i>
SERA Early Career Faculty Mentoring Initiative	Michelle Peters <i>University of Houston – Clear Lake</i>	Members-at-Large: 2025 – 2028	Karen Graham <i>University of Houston</i>
	Tonya Jeffery <i>University of Houston – Downtown</i>		Karen Walker <i>East Texas A&M University</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.

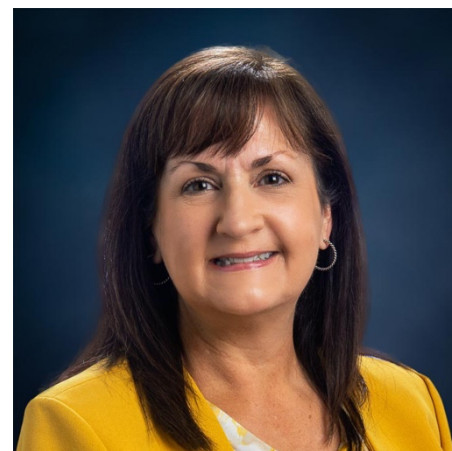
Welcome to Our New Elected Board Members

Mary Curtis is an Assistant Professor of Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. She is committed to the development of novice and experienced educators. She enjoys mentoring preservice teachers as the Coordinator of the Social Studies teacher preparation program. Dedicated to challenging learners, Mary collaborates with undergraduate and graduate student researchers and preservice teachers to encourage innovative teaching practices in the field. Her work focuses on integrating geospatial technologies, such as geographic information systems (GIS), in the K-12 social studies and STEM education using inquiry-based and data visualization approaches. Her research interests include effective geography education strategies, integration of GIS in instructional design, transdisciplinary STEM education, females in STEM, and teacher preparation. Mary also serves as the Chair for the Geography Education Specialty Group for the Association of American Geographers and as the Associate Editor for the *Journal of Geography*.



Karen Graham McIntush is a Clinical Assistant Faculty member with *teachHOUSTON* in the College of Natural Sciences and Mathematics in the Mathematics Department at the University of Houston. In addition to teaching secondary STEM teacher candidates, she serves as the Faculty Advisor for *teachHOUSTON* and serves on the university's Faculty Council. She is the Co-PI on a Noyce Track 4 research grant, a Gates Foundation grant, a Houston Endowment grant, and various smaller grants. Her current research is primarily focused on recruiting, preparing, and retaining secondary STEM teachers, specifically in urban environments. More specifically, Karen conducts research on the various *teachHOUSTON* program aspects, including the impact of the classroom management course on secondary STEM student teachers, the teacher residency pathway, alternative pathways for teacher certification, and induction and mentoring efforts to support novice STEM teachers.

Karen Walker is an Assistant Professor of Early Childhood Education at East Texas A&M University in Commerce. With more than 30 years of experience in early childhood and special education settings, teaching students ranging from age 3 to 63 across a wide spectrum of abilities and disabilities, Dr. Walker brings deep practitioner knowledge to her university teaching and scholarship. Her research interest focuses on playful learning, including the critical role of play in child development and its implications for early childhood education teacher preparation. Dr. Walker serves as Editor of *Early Years: The Journal for the Texas Association for the Education of Young Children*. She is an active scholar and presenter at local, national, and international conferences, having shared her work in the United Kingdom, Kenya, Ireland, Vancouver, St. Maarten, and Anguilla. She is honored to join the SERA Board as a Member-at-Large and looks forward to contributing to the association's mission of advancing educational research across the region.



2026 – 2027 Graduate Student Council

Corbin Owens

Texas A&M University, Texarkana



Bridget Matamoros

Texas A&M University



Sarah Castillo

Sam Houston State University



Heather Alarcon

University of Houston, Clear Lake



Mary Roach

University of Alabama



Diveanne Martinez

Sam Houston State University



Masoud Askarnia

Texas Tech University



Preview of 2027 Conference – San Antonio, TX!



Photo courtesy of the San Antonio Visitor's Center

Come join us in San Antonio at the Menger Hotel for our SERA 2027 annual conference from February 17-19, 2027! You can be assured of an academically stimulating conference and a good time for all.

San Antonio has always been a crossroads for travelers, explorers, and those seeking liberty. Its sights, sounds, tastes, and past captivate people, while the relaxing river and superb climate entice visitors to return 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 shop, dine, and enjoy 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 sightsee 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. Or are you more into the fun “party crowd” localities? You will find options at places such as Dick’s Last Resort, Howl at the Moon, Swigs, Pat O’Brien’s, and Dirty Nellie’s.

The Menger also 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. The Roosevelt Bar within the hotel also has its own history. Teddy Roosevelt enlisted his Rough Riders there, and Carrie Nation chopped up the bar during prohibition.

Many famous people have stayed at the hotel, including Babe Ruth, Mae West, Roy Rogers and his wife, Dale Evans, General Sam Houston, and 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.



Photo courtesy of the San Antonio Visitor's Center

**Join us at the Menger Hotel
San Antonio, TX
February 17 – 19, 2027**

Important Dates	
2026	
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 27
Receipt of Conference Registration – by Check	October 11
Receipt of Conference Registration – by PayPal	October 18
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
2027	
DEADLINE for receipt of SERA Linda Reichwein Zientek Outstanding Paper Award	January 8
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

2027 ANNUAL MEETING

FEBRUARY 17-19, 2027

MENGER HOTEL

SAN ANTONIO, TX

PROGRAM CHAIR

Michelle Peters

University of Houston – Clear Lake

2700 Bay Area Blvd.

Houston, TX 77058

petersm@uhcl.edu

GENERAL INFORMATION

The 50th Annual Meeting of the Southwest Educational Research Association will be held

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17 THROUGH FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2027

At the Menger Hotel • 204 Alamo Plaza • San Antonio, TX 78205

Tel: (212) 223-4361 • <https://www.mengerhotel.com/>

Proposals are requested for the 2027 SERA Annual Meeting on topics from all disciplines related to education. Proposals must be submitted online at <http://sera-edresearch.org> by **Sunday, September 27, 2026**. 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 that has already been presented elsewhere.* 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 (Undergraduate and Graduate Students ONLY)

To encourage participation by undergraduate/graduate students, seminars will be scheduled to allow students to summarize research proposals, including capstones, theses, or dissertations **still in the developmental stage and not yet defended**. Authorship on Research in Progress proposals is 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) a statement of the problem, (b) the 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 by January 8, 2027.

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.

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 Division Co-chairs listed below.

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

Jennifer Grace
University of Houston-Clear Lake
grace@uhcl.edu

Alonzo Flowers
University of Texas at San Antonio
alonzo.flowers@utsa.edu

II. Instruction, Learning & Cognition

Marsha Sowell
Texas A&M University-Kingsville
marsha.sowell@tamuk.edu

Lacy Brice
Texas Tech University
lacy.brice@ttu.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

Audrey Meador
West Texas A&M University
ameador@wtamu.edu

Juanita Reyes
Tarleton State University
jreyes@tarleton.edu

V. Special Populations & Counseling

Elizabeth Beavers
University of Houston-Clear Lake
beaversea@uhcl.edu

Amber Brown
University of Houston-Clear Lake
beaversea@uhcl.edu

VI. Undergraduate & Graduate Research in Progress

Anthony Edwards
Tarleton State University
aedwards@tarleton.edu

Karen Graham
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 11** for check/purchase order payments **and** by **October 18** 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, 2026; requests must include: (a) a copy of the proposal rejection(s), (b) registration receipt, and (c) a 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 no virtual presentation option. If circumstances prevent the principal authors from presenting, they must designate a substitute to present in person.

Sessions Chairs

A session presenter is often selected as a Session Chair, 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 conference's first session 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 and references, with many including 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, San Antonio, TX. February (date), 2027." 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, an HDMI cable connection (see picture), and a projector screen (as needed). Presenters are responsible for providing laptops and, as needed, HDMI or other adapters for their computers. Presenters with Apple products: be aware that we do not have adapters that fit them. You will need to provide your own HDMI-to-USB-C (or other) adapter.

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.

- 2027 Linda Reichwein Zientek Outstanding Paper Award - due January 8, 2027
- 2027 SERA Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award - due January 8, 2027
- 2027 SERA Outstanding Undergraduate Student Paper Award - due January 8, 2027
- 2027 SERA Deans' Awards for Exceptional Graduate Student Research - due January 8, 2027

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

2027 SERA LINDA REICHWEIN ZIENTEK OUTSTANDING PAPER AWARD

Authors are encouraged to email copies of the paper submitted for presentation at the 2027 annual meeting to the SERA Executive Director, Forrest Lane, by **January 8, 2027**. **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 2027 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 (AERA) in 2028. A stipend of \$1,000 to help defray the costs of 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 for consideration.

The Executive Director must receive completed papers by 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 registered by the October deadline for payment receipt and the paper has been submitted through the proposal submission system.
- 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: 2027 SERA Outstanding Paper Award

forrest.lane@sfasu.edu

2027 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 by **January 8, 2027**. The award winner will be recognized during the Thursday luncheon at the SERA 2027 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, 2027**, 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 registered by the October deadline for payment receipt and the paper has been submitted through the proposal submission system.
- 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 the 2027 Outstanding Graduate Student Paper Award

by E-MAIL ATTACHMENT ONLY to:

Ryan Glaman

Tarleton State University

glaman@tarleton.edu

2027 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, 2027**. The award winner will be recognized during the Thursday luncheon at the SERA 2027 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 by the January 8, 2027, 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 (Research In-Progress). 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 and the paper has been submitted through the proposal submission system.
- 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 the 2027 Outstanding Undergraduate Student Paper Award
by E-MAIL ATTACHMENT ONLY to:

Ryan Glaman
Tarleton State University
glaman@tarleton.edu

2027 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. At most two awards are given per participating university. The respective Dean of the College of Education for each university sponsors these awards. An email will be sent to members in the Fall announcing the final list of participating universities.

Eligibility

To be eligible, a student must be from a participating university and attend the 2027 SERA annual meeting. Student authors should electronically submit completed papers to the SERA graduate student representative to be RECEIVED BY **January 8, 2027**.

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 take any form, such as literature reviews, explanations of statistical concepts, or case studies, and will be judged on their contribution to the theory of educational research.

The awards will be announced during the Thursday luncheon at the SERA 2027.

Rules for the Deans' Awards Competition

- The SERA graduate student representative must receive completed papers on or before January 8, 2027. Late papers are not eligible for consideration.
- The paper must be authored **only** by graduate students and be submitted through the proposal submission system.
- 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 the Deans decide not to participate.
- If you do not receive a receipt confirmation via email by **January 8, 2027**, authors should contact the graduate student representative immediately.

Send completed papers for the 2027 Deans' Awards
by E-MAIL ATTACHMENT ONLY to:
Lynette O'Neal
Texas A&M University
dynecce00@tamu.edu