

<http://www.wera-web.org>

President's Column



WERA Colleagues,
It was such a pleasure to speak with many of you at the WERA conference this past December. As during previous conferences and symposia, I struggled to select sessions to attend as there is so much I wanted to learn. Personal highlights included Dr. Coleman

and Tatum's thought-provoking keynotes that spoke to our theme, *Taking Action to Reduce Opportunity Gaps: Putting Research into Practice*. I also attended outstanding sessions about equity-focused family engagement, supporting students with disabilities and new evidence about college and career readiness across Washington. I appreciated learning in informal conversations about the varied roles of WERA members both conducting research and using data and evidence in their communities, schools and districts.

We are hoping that your WERA membership will be as relevant and useful as it has been for me. We have been applying lessons learned through surveys to make decisions about programming. Inspired by Juli Coleman's keynote and the larger Washington state conversation about [Improvement Science](#), we will be expanding our work in 2020 through the **WERA Listening Project**.

In winter and spring, our board members will be meeting with members and prospective members in order to learn more about their experiences and needs from WERA through conducting empathy interviews. [Empathy interview techniques](#) are a way to document the involvement of the WERA community by gathering an explicit understanding of members' tasks and environments. We have created a simple series of open-ended questions that address your engagement in professional learning and how you would like to connect with other educators across Washington. Interview findings will inform our planning efforts and programs for the 2020-21 year.

We aim to hear from a wide range of members and prospective members representing different professional roles, generations and regions of the state. We will be reaching out to you in the months ahead, and welcome volunteers to participate. Please contact Melanie Quaempts at weraoffice@gmail.com if you would like to be interviewed.

Hilary Loeb
WERA President

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WERA Book Study Update

WERA Members participated in a virtual book study of Beverly Tatum's bestselling book, *Why Are All the Black Kids Sitting Together in the Cafeteria? And Other Conversations about Race*. The book study brought together researchers, teachers, coaches, principals and OSPI staff and culminated with a discussion at the WERA conference facilitated by Dr. Tatum. During the study, participants shared resources about racial equity and discussed the ways in which Dr. Tatum's work could inform their work as educators.

We will be preparing for our next book study and welcome WERA members and non-members to join us on February 28 from 3-4:30 PM. Please register [here](#) to join us for a virtual meeting to select our title and discuss book study activities.



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The Standard Deviation

Newsletter of the Washington Educational Research Association (WERA)
February 2020

Why I Support WERA

I attended my first WERA fall conference in 1982. As a graduate student in Dr. Don Orlich's research class, I was "strongly" encouraged to participate, present and become a WERA member. Attending the conference, and joining WERA, became some of the most meaningful professional decisions I made during of my 47-year education career. WERA opened doors for me that would not otherwise have been available had it not been for Dr. Orlich's urging me to join a distinguished research community of learners.

WERA introduced me to a society of research scholars, expanded my network of assessment, measurement, and program evaluators, and provided me with a broad spectrum of educational research. While participating in a number of the conferences over the course of my 37-year WERA membership, I was inspired by keynote speakers such as Benjamin Bloom, Robert Thorndike, John Goodlad, Gene Glass, Madeline Hunter, Linda Darling-Hammond, Michael Fullan, Pedro Noguera and many others. Each speaker was a catalyst for a deeper appreciation for educational research and the application to my work.

WERA enjoys a well-earned reputation for membership services. WERA research grants, inspiring conference and workshop programs, an award winning peer-reviewed journal, and a wide variety of membership awards, from Distinguished Dissertation to the Art Maser Service Award, contribute to strong membership loyalty. I served as WERA president in 1990-91, providing me with meaningful leadership opportunities, the ability to serve on a variety of WERA membership committees, and to build lifelong friendships.

I would not have had the opportunity to make a contribution to the Washington research community had it not been for WERA, the people, network, and ideals it represents. WERA provided me, and every member, an opportunity to grow, learn and contribute in a meaningful way. I am grateful to Dr. Orlich for prompting my participation, presentation and WERA membership in 1982.

Gene Sharrat

WERA President, 1990-1991

Hot Topics Webinar - Inclusionary Practices Project Takes Flight

Hot Topics Webinar on March 10 - Inclusionary Practices Project Takes Flight!

Last session the legislature appropriated \$25 million to OSPI for the [Inclusionary Practices Project](#), an opportunity to grow, deepen and enhance professional development and K-12 systems to support core instruction in general education settings for all students, including students with disabilities. The project has launched and is in flight.

Join this webinar to hear from OSPI leaders and partners about the project's navigation and destinations now and in the school year to come. The webinar will take place from **1:30 - 2:30 pm on Tuesday, March 10**. Please register [here](#) to participate.

WERA Awards

Each year the Washington Education Research Association (WERA) recognizes outstanding work and contributions to the field of education by Washingtonians through scholarship and innovation. It is with great pleasure that we announce the 2019 WERA award recipients.

WERA Product Award was given to the team from Puyallup School District for their Math Quick Checks. This collection of standards-aligned formative assessments was a two-year effort from Jeremy Roy, Mary-Elizabeth Gendreau, Melissa Ryan, Amy Query, Tracy Shepard, Nick O'Neill, Sergio Ulloa, Sara Holt, Dani Baker, Michelle Bledsoe, Almai Malit, and project leader Dr. Glenn Malone.

WERA Outstanding Dissertation Award went to Dr. James Crawford, who studied adult learning through coaching relationships between school district's central office coaches and school principals.

WERA Distinguished Paper Award was given to Drs. Gail Joseph, Janet Soderberg, Sara Stull, Kevin Cummings, Deborah McCutchen, and doctoral candidate Rachel Ban. This team explores inter-rater reliability of WaKIDS Kindergarten Assessment and helps us understand how we reach reliability statewide, and where reliability is most challenging.

Art Maser Service Award went to Dr. Pete Bylsma, for his many contributions to WERA and field of education research. Dr. Bylsma served as the Director of Assessment and Program Evaluation for the Mukilteo School District where he revamped the process for research project applications which made initiating research projects more accessible to all. Dr. Bylsma also served as the editor of the WERA Education Journal for the past four years. This involved curating submissions and revising draft versions of submissions to prepare for final publication.

Gordon B. Ensign, Jr. Service Award was given to Dr. Margaret Plecki, for her many contributions and achievements as an instructor, researcher and author in the areas of school leadership, school finance, educational policy, and teacher quality and professional development.

In the field of education, it is quite necessary that we, as educators, continually learn and grow, and that we provide these same opportunities for our students, from the littlest children in our infant and toddler programs, all the way up to our tenured professionals who need access to new information and training. These awards are a bright spot meant to recognize and highlight the meaningful contributions of our peers as they grapple with the most pressing problems within the field, and the stubborn realities that persist despite our tireless efforts to resolve. We hope you will take some time to learn about the work of this year's WERA award recipients.

Brian Rick
President-Elect



Opportunity Spotlight: Washington State Fellows' Network

OSPI and the Association of Educational Service Districts (AESD) organize a professional learning and leadership series for Early Learning, English Language Arts, Mathematics, and Science educators and administrators.

Fellows participate in professional learning and engage in leadership opportunities to support district, school, or organizational implementation and professional learning of state learning standards in ELA, mathematics, and science, and the Early Learning Guidelines. The three-year program allows for deeper and expanded learning in the topics of leadership, content area knowledge, adult learning, change management, equity, use of data and analytics, and student growth. All applicants are encouraged to consider a multi-year commitment to reap the full benefits of the program; prospective applicants who can commit to only one year may still participate.

Please visit [here](#) to learn more about this opportunity. The application for 2020–2021 will be available at the [Fellows Network website](#) in April, 2020.

WERA Conference Highlights

Thank you so much for making our 35th Annual WERA Conference a smashing success! Over 500 educators from across the Northwest participated in over 90 sessions. Both keynote speakers Dr. Juli Coleman and Dr. Beverly Tatum eloquently addressed the conference theme, Taking Action to Reduce Opportunity Gaps: Putting Research into Practice. Dr. Michaela Miller, Deputy Superintendent updated WERA members on key developments at OSPI, elaborating on Superintendent Chris Reykdal's recorded message. Special thanks go out to the Lincoln High School Jazz Band and Combo (Seattle Public Schools) led by director, Zachariah MacIntyre.



Resource Spotlight: Protocol and Form for Parent/Student Refusals

A number of years ago WERA developed a Protocol and Form for Parent/Student Refusal of Participation in the Washington Comprehensive Assessment Program. Since the last revision in 2017 a variety of additional changes have occurred such as a new science assessment (WCAS) and a new alternate assessment to the ELPA for English Language Learners (WIDA). Along with the technical pieces of different assessments, there are the more sweeping changes to the state assessment landscape that are an outcome of [House Bill 1599](#), more widely known as the Graduation Pathways bill.

The changes related to state assessment refusal largely center on the high school state assessments as a graduation requirement and access to graduation alternatives. Thus, language referring to state assessments as a graduation requirement and the necessity to attempt a state assessment to access graduation alternatives have been removed.

To access the form, please go to www.wera-web.org and select the Publications menu option near the top of the screen. There you will find a link for the Protocol and Form for Parent/Student Refusal of Participation in the Washington State Comprehensive Assessment Program.

Brandon Lagerquist
Director-Assessment, Research, and Evaluation, Edmonds School District

Creative Genius Contest

A cherished WERA tradition has been to host a contest that tests the literary and artistic skills of WERA members at the annual conference. Our winner was **Joe Kosty** from Federal Way Public Schools.

WERA Sonnet #1

A day, a thought, a dream, a chance. Believe
equity can achieve remarkable
accomplishments. Visit rooms; retrieve
intelligence. Our dream is reachable
if data does illuminate a gap.
I think we need to counteract
Reacting quick is needed with a map,
A friend or learning from a WERA act.
In subjects (meaning reading, science, math),
interims, fancy graphs, or digital
supports lead to new or better paths.
Equity, honestly, is possible.
Ya heard it right, a ray of light!
So roll up a sleeve, undo the wrong and fight!

Special thanks go out to Pete Bylsma and Glen Malone who conceived this year's task and judged entries. In previous years, members have competed for this honor by crafting cartoon captions and writing poetry from words in the conference program. Please contact Melanie Quaempts at weraoffice@gmail.com with your suggestions for our next contest.

Hilary Loeb
President



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Call for Papers for the WERA Educational Journal (WEJ)

We are seeking submissions for the Spring 2020 issue of the *WERA Educational Journal*. The *WEJ* is a collection of academic papers, professional reports, book reviews, and other articles and summaries of general significance and interest to the Northwest education research and practitioner community.

Topics in the *WEJ* cover a wide range of areas of educational research and related disciplines. These include but are not limited to issues related to the topics listed below.

- Early childhood education
- Curriculum and instruction
- State and national standards
- Professional development
- Special populations (e.g., gifted, ELLs, students with disabilities)
- Early warning indicators
- Social and emotional issues
- School and district effectiveness
- Teacher and principal evaluation
- Education finance and policy
- Educational technology
- Educational leadership

We encourage the submission of condensed versions of dissertations and theses that are reader-friendly. For information about the *WEJ* and its submissions, see the Submission Guidelines posted on the WERA website. If you have questions about the process or about possible submissions, email WEJeditor@gmail.com.

Antony Smith, Ph.D.
Editor, WERA Educational Journal

Thank You WERA 2019-2020 Platinum Sponsors

WERA's sponsors help support fees for well-known keynote speakers at our conferences, fund WERA research grants, and support costs of technology necessary for WERA to stay current in today's world. We are deeply grateful for this investment. More information about WERA sponsorship may be found [here](#).



The Standard Deviation, published spring, fall, and winter as an online newsletter. Submissions are welcomed from WERA members and others. Kindly submit articles for consideration using APA format to Julie DeBolt at jdebolt@auburn.wednet.edu. Previous issues and submission guidelines are available online at <http://www.wera-web.org>



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Resource Spotlight: Migrant Populations of Washington State

There are nearly one million immigrants and refugees residing in Washington State. Migration to Washington State is sizable because of our thriving agricultural industry, being home to a major port city, as well as having in effect sanctuary law. Our immigrant and refugee populations are most dense in Yakima Valley as well as King County. However, King County is home to about 50% (roughly 500,000) of the state's immigrant and refugee populations while Yakima Valley is home to about 18% (roughly 45,000). Other regions with high migrant populations will be Kennewick-Richland area, Spokane Valley, and Mount Vernon.

The most common home countries migrant families and individual populations are Mexico, Central America, the Philippines, Vietnam, China, India, Korea, Russia, Eastern Africa, and Eastern Europe. Our K-12 system in King County can be an effective tool when determining who makes up our communities and where we might need to see more sustainable support. In South King County the top ten most spoken languages in our K-12 schools are Spanish, Somali, Vietnamese, Arabic, Ukrainian, Punjabi, Russian, Tagalog, Chinese-Cantonese, and Korean.

Many local and state organizations are working to pass and enact policies that provide culturally appropriate programming for families, workers, and students state-wide. Below is a collection of advocacy groups providing services and support that our communities can utilize or use to learn more about how to become an ally, advocate, or organizer.

[OneAmerica](#), with offices in South Seattle, Vancouver, WA, and Yakima, works directly with community leaders to support our diverse communities, providing the tools necessary to work with legislators, local government actors, businesses and school districts. OneAmerica provides free legal services through its Washington New Americans program (<https://wanewamericans.org/>) and citizenship days. OneAmerica also created the Speak Your Language campaign (<https://speakyourlanguage.org/>).

[Washington Immigrant Solidarity Network](#) is a state-wide, immigrant-led, multi-racial, multi-lingual, multi-faith coalition focusing on advancing the power of immigrant and refugee communities in Washington State through providing legal aid, education, policy, and labor services.

[El Centro De La Raza](#) provides the Seattle Latinx community with programs and services centered around low-income children, youth, families, and seniors. Through grassroots organizing and political activism, El Centro strives to create better economic opportunities for their communities.

[Asian Counseling and Referral Service](#) provides services in forty languages and dialects. ACRS promotes social justice for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders as well as other underserved communities – including immigrants, refugees, and American-born – by developing, providing and advocating for innovative, effective and efficient community-based multilingual and multicultural services.

[Northwest Immigrant Rights Project](#), with offices in Granger, Seattle, Tacoma, and Wenatchee, works to create equity for all of its clients and provides immigrants with direct legal services, systemic advocacy, and community education in order to promote justice and defense of human rights and services.

[Refugee Women's Alliance](#) provides its services in over fifty languages and dialects. ReWA's services are created to stabilize clients, promote acculturation, increase language proficiency, and improve employability. Being a part of the community for 34 years, ReWA's services have effectively promoted self-sufficiency for their clients.

Lindzey Lien

OneAmerica Research and Data Analyst



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