

WERA OUTSTANDING DISSERTATION AWARD

Purpose: To recognize exemplary dissertation research by doctoral students related to improving K-12 or higher education.

Awards

- One-year complimentary membership in WERA.
- Presentation of a plaque at the WERA/OSPI Annual Conference.
- Complimentary WERA/OSPI Annual Conference registration.

The committee may recommend more than one award each year. An award will be granted only if the Committee deems that a dissertation is exemplary.

Eligibility: Candidates must have successfully defended their dissertation and been awarded a doctorate degree by an accredited Washington state institution in the calendar year in which the application is due.

Application Procedure

1. Submit one electronic copy of the complete dissertation.
2. Submit an electronic overview of the dissertation. ***This “overview” will be the primary source of information for identifying Dissertation Award winners.*** The overview must be fewer than 5 pages (including graphics and appendices) and **must** include the following elements: (See the rubric on the following page.)
 - A problem statement detailing the question investigated in the dissertation
 - A description of the data and methodology used
 - The contribution of the analysis to the understanding of the broader question being investigated
 - A discussion of the applications and limitations of the analysis
 - The recommendations from the research
 - The applicability of the findings to school districts, state departments, universities, or research organizations
3. The chair or member of the dissertation committee must submit a letter of endorsement that does the following:
 - Attests to the nominee's eligibility,
 - Specifies the meritorious nature of the dissertation as it relates to the evaluation criteria, and
 - Indicates the nominee's current position, address, and telephone number.
4. The dissertation, overview, and letter of endorsement must be sent to the WERA Awards Committee at weraoffice@gmail.com by December 31 of the year in which the dissertation was defended or the doctorate degree was awarded.

For more information: Paul Stern, WERA Executive Secretary at weraoffice@gmail.com

WERA Outstanding Dissertation Award Scoring Sheet

Please rate the dissertation using the rating scale and related statements below.

5 Strong	4	3 Adequate	2	1 Weak	Final Score
Statement of the problem/ challenge is clear and thoroughly defined.		Statement of the problem/ challenge is defined, but may be left somewhat unclear.		Statement of the problem/ challenge is confusing and incompletely defined.	
The researchers applied a rigorous methodology.		The researchers applied a somewhat rigorous methodology		The researchers applied a careless methodology.	
The analysis leads to a deeper understanding of the problem/challenge.		The analysis leads to some understanding of the problem/challenge.		The analysis fails to enhance understanding of the problem/challenge.	
The discussion of the analysis thoroughly states appropriate applications and limitations.		The discussion of the analysis states some appropriate applications and limitations.		The discussion of the analysis states few or no appropriate applications and limitations.	
The recommendations are appropriate and realistic.		The recommendations are somewhat appropriate and realistic.		The recommendations are minimal, not appropriate, and/or are unrealistic.	
Other school districts, state departments, universities, or research organizations can easily use the report.		With some additional work, other school districts, state departments, universities, or research organizations could use the report.		It would be very difficult for other school districts, state departments, universities, or research organizations to use the report.	
The appearance, format and quality of the writing are clear, appealing and easy to follow.		The appearance, format and quality of the writing are somewhat clear and can be followed.		The appearance, format and quality of the writing are fuzzy, unappealing and/or difficult to follow.	

Overall Points: _____

Reviewer Comments: