

FERA Newsletter

Fall 2023



President's Corner

A Message From the President

Dear FERA Community,

We are looking forward to our onsite 67th Annual Meeting of the Annual FERA conference November 15–17, 2023 at the Double-Tree Hilton in Hollywood Beach, FL! The conference will bring together many exciting speakers from Florida universities, school districts, schools, and the Department of Education.

The program is in development and will be available soon. We will have a wide range of paper presentations, graduate student posters, and teacher inquiry paper presentations, as well as outstanding keynote speakers and sponsored presentations for you to enjoy! Please read the note with details by FERA President-Elect Anthony Raborn in this newsletter

Our Local Arrangements Co-Chairs, Marlynn Lopez, and Maria Alayza Arca, are gathering information on how to enjoy the local area. We know parking can be challenging, therefore, the FERA Board was able to negotiate an overnight parking rate of \$20 for FERA conference attendees.

During this FERA gathering we have the opportunity to catch up with colleagues from around the state and meet new colleagues while we learn about the research our FERA community members are engaged in throughout the year.

Thank you for all you do for FERA, and I look forward to seeing you in November and welcoming you to South Florida with an *"Hola"*!

María D. Vásquez-Colina
FERA President

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FERA Conference Presentation Highlights

The Florida Educational Research Association's (FERA) 67th Annual Meeting is right around the corner! The conference will be in Hollywood Beach, FL, at the DoubleTree by Hilton from November 17–19, 2023.

Registration: You can register online or at the conference; however, registering online in advance helps us better plan for the coffee, snacks, lunches, and reception food we'll need, and will save you money! Discounted registration only lasts until October 15, 2023 so act fast for the best value.

Hotel Reservations: The deadline to reserve rooms at the discounted conference rate is October 30, 2023. Reservations made after that deadline will be at the hotel's regular rates.

This year's conference is bringing together educators, administrators, policymakers, scholars, and education industry professionals from around the world. Join them for an immersive experience filled with innovative pedagogical insights, discussions about cutting-edge technology, and collaborative sessions aimed at shaping the next era of learning.

Featured speakers and topics include, but are not limited to:

Individual Speakers

Sharing the Results of Action (and Other) Research

Craig A. Mertler, Associate Professor, Barry University

What is Fairness in Educational Testing?

Stephen Sireci, Professor, University of Massachusetts Amherst

School and Classroom Growth Models: What are they and how can they be useful?

Michael Christian, Principal Researcher, Education Analytics

Solving Educational Data Problems in Educational Research

Shane Fairbairn, Interoperability Support Specialist II, Education Analytics

Panel Discussions

Panel 1 Topic: *Standard Setting Methods Used for Determining Cut Scores on State Assessments*

Panel 2 Topic: *Undergraduate Research in Education*

Panel 3 Topic: *Artificial Intelligence and Education*

The program also includes many thoughtful paper sessions, graduate student posters, and presentations from teacher inquirers!

We look forward to the information sharing and generative conversations on the role of educational research in rebuilding and reimagining educational research in Florida and beyond!

We hope to see you there!

FERA Board Members



***María D. Vásquez-Colina, Florida Atlantic University
President***

María is an associate professor at Florida Atlantic University (FAU). Her research focuses on assessment literacy and fairness, and the scholarship of teaching research methodology. She also co-chairs the FAU Hispanic Serving Institutions Interest group and is the Florida Journal for Educational Research Executive Editor. She is dedicated to serving students holistically through a relationship-focused approach in her teaching and research. She has served as a keynote speaker and invited professor at various universities. She enjoys nature hikes with her husband and her daughter. She speaks Spanish and French.



***Anothony William Raborn, National Association of Boards of
Pharmacy
President-Elect***

Anthony is a psychometrician at the National Association of Boards of Pharmacy. He holds a Ph.D. in Research and Educational Methodology from the University of Florida, where his research focused on developing and validating short forms of scales and surveys. Outside of work, he enjoys running, reading, playing guitar, and playing video games. In his current role, he focuses on creating reports of certification and licensure exams. He and his fiancée have two cats, Alex and Benji.



***David Bustos, Polk County Schools
Past President***

David Bustos is a Senior Coordinator of Student Learning Evaluation for Polk County Public Schools. In his role, he works with schools and district staff to maximize student growth through progress monitoring, accountability, evaluation, and research. Prior to serving at the district level, David was a K-12 teacher in South Korea and Florida. He also has been an adjunct professor for higher education programs in Latin America. David is originally from Mexico City, where he acquired a love for history, art, philosophy, languages, food, and culture. When he is not at work, one can often find him traveling abroad.

FERA Board Members (Continued)



***Scott Hebert, Citrus County Schools
Secretary***

Scott has been part of Citrus County Schools for the past 33 years as a teacher, guidance counselor, principal, district director and was recently named the Assistant Superintendent. He was the 1999 Florida Teacher of the Year and also received the Milken National Educator Award that same year and was inducted into the Florida Educators Hall of Fame in 1998. He believes that in every grade level and in every class the focus of the classroom should be on what needs to happen to make children successful. His greatest contribution to his community is his deep commitment to serve children and their families. He is a member of many local non-profit boards, including the Florida Organization for Instructional Leadership advisory board.



***Megan Atha, Florida Gulf Coast University
Treasurer***

Megan Atha is an assistant professor at Florida Gulf Coast University where she teaches courses in classroom assessment, data analysis, and learning theories. Megan earned her Ph.D. in Educational Psychology with a special focus on educational measurement from the University of South Florida in 2020. Her research examines three interrelated areas in creativity research: examining how developmental contexts and learning environments motivate or inhibit creativity, strengthening creativity assessment among practitioners working with children and youth, and evaluating out-of-school time programs that promote creative processes. Meg is an active member of the American Psychological Association Division 10 (Psychology of Aesthetics, Creativity, and the Arts) and Division 15 (Educational Psychology).



***Cheron Hunter Davis, Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University
Director***

Cheron is an associate professor of reading education at Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. Recently recognized as one of the top 25 leading women in higher education, she is a practitioner at heart and maintains healthy, robust relationships with classroom teachers. She was selected for the inaugural 2022 cohort of the FAMU Provost's Emerging Leaders Initiative and was awarded the 2022 American Educational Research Association Distinguished Paper Award and the Outstanding Author Contribution Literati Awards for her contribution to the volume *The Beauty and the Burden of Black Professorship*. She serves on the executive boards of the Florida Literacy Association, The Reading Paradigm, and the Florida Journal for Educational Research. She enjoys spending time with her husband, Terrance, and her two children, Ava and TJ.

FERA Board Members (Continued)



***Victoria Giordano, Florida Southern University
Director***

Victoria A. Giordano is an Associate Professor of Education and Dean of the School of Education at Florida Southern College. Dr. Giordano's research interests are in the areas of curriculum, instruction, and assessment with an emphasis on teacher education. Professional development strategies and models and curriculum design are the threads that permeate Dr. Giordano's research. She was awarded the Lorraine R. Gay Award for Excellence in Research and Scholarship for her own dissertation research. She remains committed to guiding doctoral students in their pursuit of interesting, meaningful, timely, and rigorous research whose purpose is to improve learning and learning opportunities for others and to addressing the educational needs and interests of all learners through empirical, practical, and action research.



***Mijana Lockard, Polk County Public Schools
Director***

Dr. Lockard is an Assistant Education Professor at Florida Southern College. Dr. Lockard has extensive experience in curriculum development and implementation, teaching, professional development design, grant writing and implementation, and innovative technology approaches. Her curricular expertise includes technology integration, curriculum development, fabrication lab curriculum, and support for teachers and resource teachers implementing programs. She instructed teachers throughout the state for the Florida Center for Instructional Technology at the University of South Florida in its Master Digital Educator Program, nationwide as the Microsoft Innovative Teachers Trainer and Oracle Education Foundation's Project-Based Learning facilitator. She has garnered national and state awards from Siemens' "We Can Change the World," Toshiba Exploravision, Disney Planet Challenge, Microsoft Innovative Teacher, and other awards.

Florida Journal of Educational Research Call for Submissions

The Florida Journal of Educational Research (FJER) is a peer-reviewed open-access academic journal published by the Florida Educational Research Association (FERA). The purpose of FJER is to facilitate communication among educators, policymakers, and researchers in the state of Florida and beyond, and to disseminate and to advance knowledge through theoretical and empirical studies related to education.

Editorial Team:

Executive Editor María D. Vásquez, Ph.D., Florida Atlantic University
Associate Editor Alyson Adams, Ph.D., University of Florida
Associate Editor Corinne Huggins-Manley, PhD. University of Florida
Co-Managing Editors Lodi Lipien and Deborah Christie, University of South Florida

Article Submissions

We would like to encourage you to submit Your Work to FJER. FJER welcomes submissions from members and non-members!

Additionally, presenters at the Annual Meeting of the Florida Educational Research Association are specially invited to submit their work! Please indicate if your submission was an FERA presentation. To submit a manuscript, visit [https:// journals.flvc.org/fjer](https://journals.flvc.org/fjer)

To submit a manuscript for consideration, each author will need to register as an author (and reviewer if you choose) at <https://journals.flvc.org/fjer>

Interested in becoming a FJER Reviewer?

FJER is seeking new Editorial Board Members and reviewers! We are also seeking graduate students to serve on the graduate student review panel. To volunteer as a Board Member or reviewer, please contact María D. Vásquez at mvasque3@fau.edu

FERA Newsletter Call for Submissions

The FERA Newsletter Team invites you to contribute to the upcoming newsletter! Please contribute and reach out to colleagues who might like to contribute. The newsletter is distributed to FERA members and It is also posted on our website. Submissions for the November issue are due by **May 1, 2024**.

We are especially looking for:

1. Feature submissions (up to 2,000 words). Share your research projects, classroom practices, professional development, etc.
2. Lesson Plans. Share a lesson or unit you made.
3. Anecdotes and stories (up to 1,000 words). Have you observed something interesting or unique? Share your thoughts and reflections on something that happened in your practice.
4. Compilation and evaluation of useful resources (up to 700 words). Share a bibliography or a list of references that always comes in handy.
5. Interviews–Interview professionals in the field and/or a FERA member.
6. Reports and reviews (up to 750 words). Write about a book or article you read, a film or TV show you watched, or a webinar, conference, or protest you attended.
7. Member Profiles–If you do not have time to send a submission, we would still love to hear about you. You are welcome to send a 4–5 sentence bio (in third person) and a paragraph about environmental issues in your area -concerns and positive notes -we would love to include your story in the newsletter.
8. Announcements of Upcoming Events--conferences, webinars, contests, meetings and protest actions.
9. Poetry, Artwork, Photos.
10. Organization Profiles (up to 2,000 words).
11. Opinion Pieces (up to 2,000 words).
12. Recommended videos, music, articles, and apps.
13. Press releases.

FERA Newsletter Call for Submissions (Cont'd)

GENERAL FERA NEWSLETTER SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submissions should:

- have the title in ALL CAPS
- list a byline: author's name (pronouns optional) with hyperlinked email, affiliation, city, country
- include an author photo (optional)
- include a 2–3 sentence (or less) teaser for the first page of the newsletter
- be no longer than 2,000 words (includes bylines, teasers, main text, tables, and author bios)
- contain no more than five citations
- 2–3-sentence author biography at the end of the article
- follow the style guidelines in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 7th Edition (APA style)* or *Purdue OWL*.
- be a shared Google Doc or be in .doc, .docx, .rtf, or .txt format. All figures, graphs, and other images should be sent in separate jpg files.
- co-authored pieces are welcome.
- If the author includes a photo, it must be: a head and shoulder shot
 - a jpg--width = 90px, height = 120px
 - clear, clean, professional, appropriate to the article

We think the newsletter is a great venue to showcase your work, share your ideas, and build community. We look forward to seeing your submissions! Please send them to alypka@mail.usf.edu with the subject line “FERA Newsletter Submission.” (We reserve the right to make minor editorial changes for clarity.)

Please contribute and reach out to colleagues who might like to contribute.

How to Get Involved with the FERA Newsletter

Ask us about:

- publishing in our newsletter
- accessing past years' materials
- collaborating with other educators/administrators
- joining the FERA Newsletter Leadership Team (we welcome new leadership team members!)

Tell us about:

- your ideas for a presentation proposal at the FERA Conference
- your suggestions for the annual networking session at the FERA Conference
- your education publications and presentations
- lesson plans you made
- suggested links and resources
- ideas you would like to share in a webinar
- how you'd like to volunteer and get involved with FERA

Meet the FERA Newsletter Editors



Andrea Enikő Lypka
Publications/Newsletter Chair

Andrea is an EAP/ESP adjunct instructor and a program manager. She has earned her Ph.D. in Second Language Acquisition and Instructional Technology from the University of South Florida. She is the President of Sunshine State TESOL, co-chair for TESOL 2024, and Past-President of the Intercultural Interest Section TESOL. Her research interests include community-based research and visual methods, technology, Latinx indigenous English language learners, and identity.



Katherine Coulson-Johnston
Newsletter Co-Editor

Katherine is an adjunct instructor and editor. She earned her Ph.D. in Higher Education Leadership at Florida Atlantic University. Katherine has over a decade of experience in higher education, specializing in enrollment management, student success, and leadership. Her research interests include Indigenous students' success, access, and retention in higher education.

We would love to connect with you!

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