Outstanding Paper Award

Authors of original, unpublished articles are invited to submit their papers for consideration for the California Educational Research Association’s (CERA) “Outstanding Paper Award.” Because CERA is a state affiliate of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), the winner of the CERA Outstanding Paper Award will automatically be selected to present his or her paper at the next AERA Annual Convention and Exhibition.

Eligibility Criteria

- The paper must be original work, and may not currently be under review by another organization or journal for publication.
- The author must be a member of CERA.
- The paper must be accepted for presentation at the CERA Annual Conference.
- The paper must adhere to American Psychological Association (APA) formatting guidelines and must be no longer than 30 pages.
- The Outstanding Paper winner (or a designated proxy) must be willing and able to attend the 2016 AERA Annual Meeting and Exhibition in April 2016 in Washington, D.C. to present the paper. CERA will reimburse the AERA conference registration fee for one person, either the lead author or the designated proxy. The presenter will be responsible for his/her own travel and hotel arrangements.
- Outstanding Paper submissions should be submitted via the online process outlined on the CERA Web site.

Submission Deadline

Submissions must be made by 5:00 p.m. on Friday, August 21, 2015.

Evaluation Criteria and Process

Criteria

Each submission for the Outstanding Paper Award will be evaluated on the following six criteria:

1. Purpose of Study
   - The purpose of the study is clearly stated & includes a research hypothesis or guiding research questions.
2. Theoretical Framework
   - The theoretical framework is well established through citation of prior research/literature.
3. Significance
   - The significance of the study is well-articulated, including its impact on educational practice or the field of educational research, student testing, accountability, and the like.
4. Methods
   - The research methods used are appropriate and clearly explained.
5. Results
   - The results are described clearly, logically supported by data, and pertinent to the stated research hypothesis and/or research questions.
6. Conclusion
   - Sound conclusions are described based on presented results, with clear interpretations and implications for the overall field of study.
**Process**

- All submissions will undergo blind review.
- A professor may not evaluate a paper submitted by his/her own undergraduate or graduate student. A supervisor may not evaluate a paper submitted by his/her own direct subordinate.
- Each submission for the Outstanding Paper Award will be reviewed by at least three reviewers. Each reviewer will evaluate each paper submission independently.
- Reviewers will evaluate each paper using the CERA Board-approved criteria listed below. Each of six criteria will be scored on a five-point scale. The maximum score a paper can receive is 30.
- The Outstanding Paper Award will be presented to the paper with the highest mean score from all reviewers. In the event of a tie, the score with the smallest standard deviation of scores will win.

**Presentation of Award**

- The award will be presented at the CERA Annual Meeting.
- The award cannot be transferred by the winner to another person, although a proxy may be selected to present the paper at the AERA Annual Meeting if the lead author is unable to attend.
- The name of the award winner and the title of the winning paper will be posted on the CERA Web page.