



Call For Paper Awards

MSERA Annual Meeting

Huntsville, Alabama

November 4 – 6, 2026

Embassy Suites & Spa by Hilton

Kelly Byrd, President

Keicia Hawkins, Vice-President/President Elect & Chair, Distinguished Paper Awards

MSERA invites you to submit your work for consideration of a paper award at our Annual Meeting in November 2026. The 2026 Annual Meeting theme is From Inquiry to Impact: Advancing Educational Research to Transform Learning Environments. This highlights a shared journey from exploration and discovery to collaboration, application, and lasting impact. We welcome proposals that demonstrate how investigating today strengthens classrooms, advances equity, and improves learning for tomorrow.

MSERA members may apply for the James E. McLean Distinguished Research Paper Award or the Herbert M. Handley Outstanding Dissertation/Thesis Award by submitting their [abstract proposals](#) to present at the Annual Meeting through the electronic submission process as outlined in the Call for Proposals on the MSERA website. They must also submit a separate 300-word abstract to [the paper award link](#) and select the award for which they would like to be considered. If the submitted abstract is selected for presentation at the Annual Meeting, an electronic copy (PDF) of the complete paper or dissertation summary and a separate electronic cover sheet must be sent to the Awards Chair, Dr. Keicia Hawkins, at hawkinsk@nsula.edu by August 31, 2026.

Paper submissions should be extensions of the abstract that was accepted for presentation and may not be changed, except for possible editorial corrections. The maximum length is 25 double-spaced pages, including narrative, tables, and bibliography. All references to the author (s) and affiliate institutions should be redacted in the paper submission. The first author of the Distinguished Research Paper Award receives a plaque and reimbursement of up to \$500 for costs affiliated with presenting the winning paper at the AERA conference following the MSERA Annual Meeting during which the award was made. The first author of the Outstanding Dissertation/Thesis Award recipient receives a plaque and \$250 cash, provided the dissertation was completed during or after the summer (previous year). One person may not be awarded both awards in the same year. Winners must also commit to presenting their work on the last day of the Annual Meeting (Friday, November 6, 2026).