



# **2026 MSERA Annual Meeting**

## **Call for Proposals**

Huntsville, AL  
November 4-6, 2026  
Embassy Suites Huntsville Hotel & Spa

**Dr. Kelly O. Byrd, President**

Dr. Mindy Waldrop, Program Chair & Dr. Miranda Allen, Program Co-Chair

### **General Information and Policies for Eligible Submissions**

Educational research begins with inquiry - questions that challenge assumptions, deepen understanding, and spark innovation. Its true power lies in impact, when research informs practice, shapes policy, and transforms learning environments. MSERA invites researchers, educators, leaders, and university scholars to share work that advances knowledge and creates meaningful change in teaching and learning.

This year's theme 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 invites several types of submissions in the form of abstracts, for the following sessions: research paper, literature review, position paper, symposium, training, poster presentation, or research in progress. The deadline to submit and edit all proposals in Oxford Abstracts is May 31, 2026. Acceptance notifications

will be sent on July 31, 2026. Decisions & notifications about the type and number of presenters per session will be made by August 14, 2026.

For those who have submitted with us previously, you will notice that the process has changed. This year you will select the link to the type of submission. You are welcome to submit more than one submission and more than one type. All will be scored using a blind-review process.

Click on the hyperlink to go the submission portal. If you have not already made an account in Oxford Abstracts you will need to do that first.

- [Research Paper](#) - A paper submission is a presentation of a completed research study that examines an educational question through empirical research, theoretical analysis, or methodological inquiry, emphasizing the study's purpose, methods, theoretical framework(s), key findings, and implications. It is presented as a lecture session or a roundtable discussion. All accepted papers are scheduled in 50-minute sessions, with up to three papers presented per session or in a roundtable discussion.
  - Only those who also [submit paper award proposals](#), including a 300 word abstract, and are accepted for the program will be considered for the [Handley Thesis/Dissertation Awards](#) or [McClellan Distinguished Research Paper Awards](#).
- [Position Paper](#) - A position paper submission is a formal academic presentation that advocates a specific, evidence-informed position on a contested or emerging issue in education, situates that position within existing literature, and argues for its significance, implications, or adoption by the educational community. It is presented as a paper lecture session. All accepted papers are scheduled in 50-minute lecture sessions, with up to three papers presented per session or as an individual session.
- [Literature Review](#) - A literature review submission is a presentation that critically examines and synthesizes prior empirical and theoretical studies on an educational issue, organizing the body of literature to clarify what is known, what remains contested or under-explored, and how the field might move forward. It is presented as a paper lecture session. All accepted literature reviews are scheduled in 50-minute sessions, with up to three presented per session or as an individual session.

- [Symposium](#) - A symposium submission is a structured conference session in which several presenters deliver papers or perspectives on a theme to collectively examine an educational issue from complementary or contrasting viewpoints. It is presented as an open forum or panel discussion. All accepted symposium submissions are scheduled for 50-minute sessions but may run up to 90 minutes based on session topic and focus.
- [Training](#) - A training submission is an interactive conference session in which presenters explicitly teach strategies, tools, or procedures relevant to educational practice, with the goal of enabling participants to apply the learning in their professional contexts. Accepted training submissions may be scheduled as 50-minute or 90-minute sessions.
- [Poster](#) - A poster presentation submission is a visual display of key elements of completed research (such as purpose, methods or framework, findings, and implications) or other educational topics. The author(s) discusses the work with attendees during the designated poster session. Poster presentations may vary in length depending on available space at the conference site.
- [Research in Progress \(RiP\)](#) – Research in Progress is reserved for current university students (undergrad or graduate) who are in the process of building and perfecting a study. The work should not be completed by the time of their presentation (11/4/2026 or 11/5/2026). All accepted RiP submissions are considered for an [MSERF RiP award](#). Accepted submissions may be assigned as roundtable or lecture presentations in the finalized program.

### **Important Dates for the 2026 MSERA Annual Meeting:**

- March 2, 2026: Oxford Abstract portal opens to all submissions:
  - [Research Paper](#)
    - [Paper Awards](#)
  - [Research in Progress](#)
  - [Symposium](#)
  - [Training](#)
  - [Literature Review](#)
  - [Position Paper](#)
  - [Poster](#)
- May 31, 2026: Oxford Abstract portal closes to all submissions and edits.

- June 7, 2026: Reviewers assigned (via Oxford Abstracts)
- July 12, 2026: Reviews Due (via Oxford Abstracts)
- July 31, 2026: Acceptance/Rejection Notification Sent (via Oxford Abstracts)
- August 14, 2026: Presentation date, time, and type (as applicable) sent (via Oxford Abstracts)
- August 31, 2026: Award Papers Due to Dr. Keicia Hawkins (via email [hawkinsk@nsula.edu](mailto:hawkinsk@nsula.edu))
- September 30, 2026: *MSERA Today* with Full Digital Program Published (via MSERA email & Oxford Abstracts)
- October 9, 2026: Pre-registration Ends. (Discounted meeting registration and hotel pricing ends.)
- October 10, 2026: Accepted programs with unregistered authors dropped from the program. (See Author registration agreements.)
- October 10, 2026: Standard Registration Opens (price increase for meeting registration & hotel rates)

For more information:

- If you have any questions about the Call for Proposals/Submissions to Oxford Abstracts, please email the Program Chair, Dr. Mindy Waldrop ([mindy.waldrop@wku.edu](mailto:mindy.waldrop@wku.edu)).
- For more information about Research in Progress submissions, [check here](#) and/or email the University Student Director, Mrs. Erika Cheek ([echeek@southalabama.edu](mailto:echeek@southalabama.edu)).
- For more information about Paper Awards, [McLean](#) and/or [Handley](#), email Vice President/President Elect, Dr. Keicia Hawkins ([hawkinsk@nsula.edu](mailto:hawkinsk@nsula.edu)).
- For more information about being a proposal reviewer, [check here](#) or email the Program Chair, Dr. Mindy Waldrop ([mindy.waldrop@wku.edu](mailto:mindy.waldrop@wku.edu)).
- For more information about being a session presider, [check here](#) and/or email the Program Chair, Dr. Mindy Waldrop ([mindy.waldrop@wku.edu](mailto:mindy.waldrop@wku.edu)).