



Division H 2017 Outstanding Publications Competition

Division H: AERA's home for people dedicated to applied research, evaluation, and assessment in the schools.

Categories for entries

Excellence will be recognized in each of the following 6 entry categories:

1. **Advances in Methodology**
2. **Applied Research Reports**
3. **Program Evaluation**
4. **Assessment/Accountability**
5. **Outstanding Dissertation/Thesis**
6. **Communicating Research, Accountability, Evaluation and/or Assessment to Lay Audiences**

Rules

- Only electronic entries will be accepted.
- **Research appearing in journals or books cannot be accepted**, including corresponding pre-publication drafts. All submissions will be posted on the AERA Division H website. Hence, there can be no copyright conflicts.
- Individuals and organizations may submit more than one entry and up to a maximum of five. However, the same publication may not be entered into more than one category.
- Entries for submission must have been completed between January 1, 2016 and December 31, 2016 and not submitted for last year's competition.

Requirements for submissions

Each submission should minimally include: An abstract or summary; a description of the purpose; methodology and data used; a summary of the results; and a discussion of findings, conclusions and/or recommendations. Additional guidance for Dissertations, Assessment/Accountability & Communicating Results appear in the category descriptions below.

Entries in all categories will be judged on their technical quality and how effectively they communicate to the target audience.

How award recipients will be recognized

Award recipients are recognized in many ways. They will be publicly announced and honored with certificates during Division H's Annual Breakfast Meeting held in conjunction with AERA's Annual Meeting in April 2017 in San Antonio, TX. All entries will be displayed at the Division H booth and posted on the Division H website. Names and winning entries will be publicized in the Division H *FLASH* as well as the AERA program.

Category Descriptions

Below are descriptions for each category. Please be sure to select the appropriate category for your submission.

1. **Advances in Methodology**

This category includes studies using innovative methodology and/or explication of a new methodology that will advance the state of the art in the field. These publications should explain the innovation or methodological advance so it can be replicated; and should include a discussion of special conditions that affect the use of the methodology.

2. **Applied Research Reports**

Applied Research Reports encourages submissions that seek to understand and solve real world problems and challenges faced by school districts, state departments, or policy makers; and help identify innovative interventions (programs, professional development, technology, etc.) that improve outcomes for students and schools. Outstanding reports should include a problem/challenge statement, strong methodological analysis to support a deeper understanding of the challenge(s) and recommendations based on findings. Submissions may include but are not limited to in-house institutional

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research, action research, or researcher-practitioner partnership research.

3. Program Evaluation

This category focuses on evaluations designed to inform decision makers. Studies may highlight any curricular area, project, or program in a school system. They may be formative implementation studies, summative outcome studies, or a combination of both.

4. Assessment/Accountability

These submissions develop and/or use results from assessment or accountability systems. This may include effective reporting of results, how results were actually used, or examination of unintended positive or negative side-effects at all levels, from classroom formative assessment systems to large-scale, high-stakes systems. Submissions may include reports and/or presentations.

5. Outstanding Dissertation/Thesis

This category is for dissertations/theses developed in and approved by a graduate school program. Research must address a study in applied research, evaluation, assessment, or accountability within a school/school district setting. The submission must include a 10-15 page summary of the study and a 1-2 page transmittal letter from a committee advisor indicating the most noteworthy attributes in recommending the dissertation or thesis for this honor.

[Submit only the abstract, 10-15 page summary of the study, and a 1-2 page transmittal letter from a committee advisor or member in MS Word or PDF format. **The full dissertation will not be reviewed.**]

6. Communicating Research, Accountability, Evaluation and/or Assessment to Lay Audiences

This section encourages submissions that inform strategic planning, policy, and practice through innovative communication methods. Submissions may be intended for audiences such as school staff (teachers and administrators), parents, community members, assessment professionals, district administrators, state department staff, or policy makers.

Outstanding submissions in this category will clearly identify a) intended audience, and b) purpose or goal of the communication. New and creative methods of communication are encouraged; submissions may include items like a brochure, pamphlet, report, video, web site, or online tool.

How the entries will be judged

Panels of reviewers will judge in each category, and we will invite the Division H 2016 award recipients to serve as the chairpersons to organize entries in their respective category. If you would like to serve as a panelist, please complete the online survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S2MVTW8>

How to Submit an Entry

You must submit an electronic copy of your submission, any supporting material, and the completed submission form to: **divisionh.outstandingpubs@gmail.com**

Deadline: All materials must be emailed by midnight, the night of January 15, 2017 and sent directly to the Division H Year 2017 Outstanding Publication Competition email, **divisionh.outstandingpubs@gmail.com**.

Electronic submissions must include the following:

1. The 2017 OPC Submission Form;
2. The report, essay, pamphlet/brochure etc. in MS Word or PDF format;
3. For web-based product submissions, include the link, an overview of the product, and an explanation of how it is used & who the audience is;
4. Any additional material noted within the category requirements. If you are submitting video or other non-document forms of media, please contact Rachel or Jennifer.

Questions?

Rachel Durham and Jennifer Whitson are co-chairing the work of the 2017 Outstanding Publication Competition Committee. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel at (410) 516-4936 or by email at rdurham@jhu.edu, or Jennifer by e-mail at jennifer.whitson@acps.k12.va.us.