University of Chicago Professor Stephen W. Raudenbush to Present AERA Fifth Annual Brown Lecture in Education Research

WASHINGTON, October 23, 2008—Stephen W. Raudenbush, Lewis-Sebring Distinguished Service Professor at the University of Chicago, presents the Fifth Annual Brown Lecture in Education Research, on October 23, 2008. Inaugurated in 2004 by the American Educational Research Association (AERA), the Lecture features significant scholarship directed toward the advancement of understanding of equality and equity in education.

The Brown Lecture takes place on Thursday, October 23, at 6:00 p.m. in the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington, DC.

Speaking on the topic *The Brown Legacy and the O’Connor Challenge: Transforming Schools in the Images of Children’s Potential*, Raudenbush looks at the continuing achievement gap between White students and Black students and ways in which persistent inequality can be overcome.

Writing the majority opinion in the 2003 U.S. Supreme Court case *Grutter v. Bollinger*, Justice Sandra Day O’Connor expressed the hope that in 25 years affirmative action would no longer be needed. Raudenbush looks ahead to that date—2028—and expresses a conviction that, despite a multiplicity of causes of inequality, school improvement can by itself play a powerful role in overcoming educational consequences of racial inequality. The task of engaging children in ambitious intellectual work, however, begins with innovative ways of thinking about best school practice and use of the best available education research to make connections between developmental science, instructional practice, and school organization.

Kris Gutierrez, chair of the AERA Social Justice Action Committee, also chaired the 2008 Brown Lecture Selection Committee. She was joined in that effort by Hugo Garcia, Stephen Hancock, Felice J. Levine, Lorraine McDonnell, William F. Tate, and George L. Wimberly.

This occasion is the fifth annual AERA Brown Lecture, an event that commemorates the *Brown v. Board of Education* and the decision of the U.S. Supreme Court to take scientific research into account in issuing the court’s landmark ruling.

Edmund W. Gordon, director of the Institute of Urban and Minority Education at Teachers College, Columbia University, delivered the inaugural Brown Lecture. Other speakers include
Claude M. Steele, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, Linda Darling-Hammond, Stanford University; and Margaret Beale Spencer, University of Pennsylvania.

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Note to News Reporters and Editors: To reach AERA Communications, contact Helaine Patterson at (hpatterson@aera.net) or call (202) 238-3235.

The American Educational Research Association (AERA) is the national association for more than 24,000 members who conduct research and evaluation in education. Founded in 1916, the Association strives to advance knowledge about education, to encourage scholarly inquiry related to education, and to promote the use of research to improve education and serve the public good.