For Immediate Release

AERA Annual Meeting
Education Researchers Gather for 90th Meeting of the Association in San Diego

WASHINGTON, March 30, 2009—When the American Educational Research Association (AERA) hosts the AERA Annual Meeting next month, more than 14,000 education research scholars will convene in San Diego, California where 2,000 peer-reviewed sessions are scheduled from April 13 to 17. The five-day meeting—the 90th Annual Meeting of the Association—is an opportunity to learn about the latest research on wide-ranging education topics.

“The 2009 Annual Meeting will be an opportunity for renewed discussion and expansion of the role of education research as a hub of interdisciplinary scholarship,” says Program Chair Michael J. Feuer, National Academy of Sciences. The theme this year is Disciplined Inquiry: Education Research in the Circle of Knowledge, a focus that celebrates a tradition of multi-disciplinary work and looks ahead to assess new ways that education research and disciplinary inquiry might be more effectively integrated.

“Education research has been inclusive in its application of disciplinary perspectives, and in its respect for quantitative and qualitative methods,” says AERA President Lorraine M. McDonnell. “The result has been a uniquely rich capacity for education research to draw on a broad range of humanistic and scientific disciplines, and to contribute widely to the improvement of education policy and practice.”

President McDonnell is an education policy expert who teaches political science at the University of California-Santa Barbara (UCSB). Her research concentrates on the politics of student testing and the potential of deliberative democracy to engage the public in communities and schools. Speaking on Repositioning Politics in Education’s Circle of Knowledge, McDonnell will deliver the 2009 presidential address on April 15 at the Awards Presentation and Presidential Address session scheduled for 4:05 p.m. in the San Diego Convention Center, Ballroom 20BC.

Feuer notes that many of the Presidential Invited Lectures this year have been organized into cluster groupings. These cluster sessions, designed for intellectual and logistical efficiencies and listed below, “bring together scholars who share interests but who use divergent methods and modes of inquiry.”

- Explorations of Cognition
- Interdisciplinary Dialogues
- Education Research in a Changing Political World
- Research Spotlight on California
- Assessment and Accountability from Pre-K to the University
- International Perspectives and
- Research-based Innovations in STEM Education.

The 2009 Annual Meeting Program—with all sessions selected for presentation in San Diego—has been posted online at www.aera.net to supplement programs from 2004 through 2008, for year-round links to
experts and the latest research. This year’s program, searchable by presenter name, affiliation, and session/presentation (keyword), includes an array of topics, many focused on knowledge creation and use that spans boundaries between academic disciplines.

The 2009 Annual Meeting has four headquarters locations: the San Diego Convention Center, the San Diego Marriott Hotel & Marina, the Omni San Diego, and the Manchester Grand Hyatt.

—AERA—

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The AERA Pressroom will be located in the San Diego Convention Center, Room 1A, April 13 to 17. For complimentary press registration, contact AERA Communications at *outreach@aera.net*. Press room telephone: (619) 525-6238

The American Educational Research Association (AERA) is the national interdisciplinary research association for approximately 25,000 scholars who undertake research in education. Founded in 1916, AERA aims 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. [www.aera.net](http://www.aera.net)