For Immediate Release

Former Commissioner of NCES Receives 2011 Distinguished Public Service Award at the American Educational Research Association’s 92nd Annual Meeting

April 4, 2011, NEW ORLEANS, LA—The American Educational Research Association (AERA) will present the Distinguished Public Service in Education Award to Emerson J. Elliott, former commissioner of the National Center for Education Statistics (NCES), at the Association’s 2011 Annual Meeting in New Orleans. This award is granted annually in recognition of an individual who has worked to enact or implement policies that are well grounded in education research, or who has been at the forefront of efforts to increase recognition and support for education research.

The honor will be conferred during the Awards Presentation and Presidential Address at the Association’s 92nd Annual Meeting. In conjunction with the recognition, Elliott will deliver the AERA Distinguished Public Service Award Lecture, From Eisenhower to Obama: Ruminations on a Federal Experience in Education, on Sunday, April 10 at 10:35 a.m. in the Sheraton New Orleans, Napoleon Ballroom C3.

As a pioneer in federal statistics during a career that spanned nearly four decades, Elliott committed his professional life to planning, evaluation, and analysis of education issues. He spent many years at the helm of NCES and is widely credited with the establishment of NCES as a highly credible source of statistical information on public education in the United States. Since his retirement from the U.S. Department of Education, Elliott has devoted his attention to higher education and teacher preparation as Director of Special Projects at the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE).

The Distinguished Public Service Award will be presented by P. David Pearson, University of California - Berkeley, and Chair-Designate of the AERA Government Relations Committee, who himself gives the Distinguished Contributions to Education Research Award (2010) Lecture on Monday afternoon.

Previous Public Service Award recipients include North Carolina Governor James B. Hunt, Jr., who accepted the inaugural Distinguished Public Service Award in 2003; Richard C. Atkinson; Ronald A. Wolk; Jack Jennings; Bruce Alberts; and Beverly L. Hall.

The AERA Government Relations Committee serves as the award selection committee and includes Thomas B. Corcoran, chair; Shirley Brice Heath; Pedro A. Noguera; Douglas J. Palmer; Charles M. Payne; Becky A. Smerdon; and Kevin Welner.

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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.