For Immediate Release

Social Justice Awards at AERA Annual Meeting Recognize Work on Equity Issues

NEW ORLEANS, March 31, 2011—Five education research scholars will be honored at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the American Educational Research Association (AERA) for significant contributions to the field in support of equity and social justice. The recognition of their work takes place on April 8, the opening evening of the five-day meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.

William C. Ayers, formerly Distinguished Professor of Education and Senior University Scholar at the University of Illinois at Chicago, is 2011 recipient of the Association’s Social Justice in Education Award, given for the advancement of social justice through education research.

Ayers has taught courses in interpretive and qualitative research and urban school change and has written extensively about social justice, democracy and education, and the cultural contexts of schooling. In conjunction with this award, Ayers will present the 2011 Social Justice in Education Award Lecture. Speaking on the topic Lesson One – I Would Sing: Social Justice Research and Heeding the Persistent Cry of the Young, Ayers will examine and re-imagine "social justice" and "education," two concepts that have become common-place. His lecture will encourage students and teachers, scholars and researchers, academics and activists to see themselves as largely works-in-progress, holding in their hearts a commitment to the spirit of democracy and simple justice.

James Earl Davis, Temple University, will receive the Distinguished Contributions to Gender Equity in Education Research Award, presented by the Scholars and Advocates for Gender Equity in Education Committee. The formal announcement of his award will take place on Friday evening during the reception which follows the Social Justice in Education Lecture.

Each year, three researchers are recognized by the Committee on Scholars of Color in Education for contributions to the understanding of issues that disproportionately affect minority populations.

• The 2011 Distinguished Career Contribution Award will be presented to Henry T. Frierson, University of Florida.
• Jerlando F. L. Jackson, University of Wisconsin – Madison, will receive the 2011 Distinguished Scholar Award.
• Bic H. Ngo, University of Minnesota, will be honored with the 2011 Early Career Contribution Award.

The announcement of these three awards also takes place at the Joint Social Justice in Education reception on Friday, with presentation of the awards to follow at the AERA Committee on Scholars of Color in Education Awards Presentation and Business Meeting on April 9.

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**Note to Editors, Reporters:** In New Orleans, the AERA Press Room is located at the Sheraton New Orleans, Nottoway. Telephone: 504-681-5440 To reach AERA Communications before April 6, call (202) 238-3234 or 238-3235. E-mail hpaterson@aera.net or lcunningham@aera.net. For complimentary press registration, contact AERA Communications at outreach@aera.net

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.