For Immediate Release


WASHINGTON, D.C., March 4, 2011—William G. Tierney, a University of Southern California (USC) professor who is an expert in the study of higher education and directs the USC Center for Higher Education Policy Analysis, has been voted president-elect of the American Educational Research Association (AERA). His term as president starts at the conclusion of the 2012 Annual Meeting, after one year of service as president-elect.

Professor Tierney will succeed Arnetha F. Ball, a Stanford University education professor who is a language, literacy, teacher education, and urban studies expert. Dr. Ball will assume the AERA presidency on April 12, 2011 at the close of the Association's 92nd Annual Meeting in New Orleans, Louisiana.

“As higher education plays an increasingly important role in the 21st century knowledge-based global economy, Bill Tierney’s expertise in postsecondary education, access, organizational change, and multicultural education will position him well to be an effective leader for AERA and education research,” states Felice J. Levine, AERA Executive Director. “His commitment to high-quality and rigorous research, sustained scholarship, and strategic dissemination of knowledge will enhance the Association’s capacity to promote and ensure excellence in research across all levels of education.”

Tierney, who holds a Ph.D. degree in administration and policy analysis from Stanford University, currently is University Professor and Wilbur-Kieffer Professor of Higher Education in the USC’s Rossier School of Education. Previously, he was professor and senior scientist at the Pennsylvania State University’s Center for the Study of Higher Education, and a senior associate at the National Center for Higher Education Management Systems.

Tierney’s research and scholarship are both applied and theoretical, often concentrating on governance and administration in higher education. His current research projects focus on governance, access, faculty productivity, critical theory, organizational culture, organizational change, leadership, issues of equity, affirmative action, multi-cultural education and qualitative methods for the study of higher education. His research has been supported by both federal and private sources, including the U.S. Department of Education, Lumina Foundation, the Lilly Endowment, and TIAA-CREF.
His publications are extensive and diverse, including books, edited books, monographs, scholarly journal articles, op ed essays in major daily newspapers, and his own blog at 21st century scholar.org.

Tierney has written 11 books in the areas of academic access and governance, including *The Impact of Culture on Organizational Decision-making: Theory and Practice in Higher Education* (2008), *New players, Different Game: Understanding the Rise of For-profit Colleges and Universities* (with Guilbert Hentschke, 2007), and *Trust and the Public Good: Examining the Cultural Conditions of Academic Work* (2006).

Among the journals in which his scholarly papers have been published are AERA’s *Review of Educational Research*, as well as the *Harvard Educational Review*, *The Europa World of Learning*, *Journal of Higher Education*, and *Teachers College Record*.

In addition to his research and teaching, Tierney makes time to contribute to professional organizations. He is a past president of the Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE), which presented him its “Distinguished Research Award” in 1997. He also has served USC as president of its Academic Senate from 1999 to 2000.

A former Peace Corps volunteer teacher in Morocco, Tierney holds great interest in the international arena, having written a reassessment of globalization, international rankings and the American model. In 2008, he was scholar-in-residence at the University Sains Malaysia, and was a Fulbright Scholar to Australia and Central America in 2001 and 1993, respectively.

An active AERA member since 1984, Professor Tierney is a Fellow of the American Educational Research Association. He also has served as a member-at-large on the AERA Executive Board and Council and vice president of Division J, Postsecondary Education.

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The American Educational Research Association (AERA), founded in 1916 and based in Washington, D.C., 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. As the national interdisciplinary research society in education, AERA is dedicated to strengthening education research capacity by promoting research of the highest quality, undertaking education and training programs, and advancing sound research and science policy. Approximately 25,000 researchers in the United States and abroad belong to this professional society, which publishes six peer-reviewed journals and research and methodology books central to the field. Its newest book, *Studying Diversity in Teacher Education*, was released in January.

*AERA will hold its 92nd Annual Meeting from April 8 to April 12, 2011 in New Orleans, Louisiana. The theme: “Inciting the Social Imagination: Education Research for the Public Good.” For more information on the Annual Meeting, please visit www.aera.net*

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