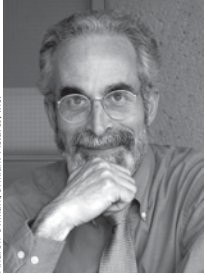


## FOREWORD



Andrew Brilliant/Brilliant Pictures, Inc.

This year, we took a somewhat unusual approach in presenting a Theme, focusing on two long-term goals rather than a single theme for the year. First, the Theme encouraged us to look beyond our usual disciplinary and political borders in the search for work that can inform our own efforts. AERA is a large and diverse group, but nonetheless, a great deal of important work bearing on the improvement of education is conducted outside of our conventional boundaries. There is exciting and valuable research underway in numerous disciplines that traditionally have not had a major presence at our meetings. For example, there is significant research on incentives underway in theoretical and behavioral economics and psychology, exploring distortions from overly simple performance measures and the complex and sometimes unexpected effects of extrinsic rewards. Within the field of education itself, there are important policy initiatives and research efforts underway across the world that are relevant to our own efforts. Second, the theme encouraged us to re-evaluate our standards for quality—both the quality of education and the quality of our own research—and to rededicate ourselves to the never-ending goal of improving the quality, rigor, and utility of our own efforts.

We are particularly pleased with the response to our call for international collaboration. We will be able to sample some initial fruits of this focus while in Chicago. You will find in the Presidential sessions a substantial representation of relevant research from around the entire globe. Institutional efforts to increase international collaboration between educational research organizations is ongoing and will continue with a meeting of international representatives immediately after our conference ends. We look forward to a even greater international interchange in the years to come.

It is a major commitment for scholars in locations as distant as China and Korea to come to present to our meeting, and we want to thank our international colleagues for their generosity in being willing to share their work with us. We hope many of you will take the opportunity to come participate in the sessions in which our international guests will present.

Welcome to the Annual Meeting. Best wishes for a stimulating, productive, and enjoyable meeting.

Eva L. Baker  
University of California – Los Angeles  
2006-2007 AERA President

Daniel M. Koretz  
Harvard Graduate School of Education  
2007 Annual Meeting Program Chair