



Division H 2016 Outstanding Publications Competition

Division H: AERA's home for people dedicated to applied research, evaluation, and assessment in the schools.

Categories for entries

Excellence will be recognized in each of the following entry categories:

- 1. Applied Research**
 - Advances in Methodology or Applied Research Reports**
- 2. Program Evaluation**
- 3. Assessment/Accountability**
- 4. Outstanding Dissertation/Thesis**
- 5. Communicating research, accountability, evaluation and/or assessment to lay audiences**

Individuals and organizations are encouraged to submit more than one entry and up to a maximum of five. However, the same publication may not be entered into more than one category. Only entries that are submitted electronically will be accepted.

Requirements for submissions

Entries for submission must have been produced or published between January 1, 2015 and December 31, 2015 and not submitted for last year's competition. Entries in all categories will be judged on their technical quality and how effectively they communicate to the target audience.

Each submission should minimally include: An abstract or summary; a description of the purpose; methodology and data used; a description of findings and results; and a discussion of results, conclusions and/or recommendations. Additional guidance for Dissertations, Assessment/Accountability & Communicating Results appear in the category descriptions below.

How award recipients will be recognized

As determined by the panel of judges for each category, the best submissions will be recognized for excellence as "First Place in Category." Award recipients are recognized in many ways. They will be publicly announced and honored with certificates during Division H's Annual Breakfast Meeting held in conjunction with AERA's Annual Meeting in April 2016 in Washington, DC. All entries will be displayed

at the Division H booth and posted on the Division H website. Names and winning entries will be publicized in the Division H *FLASH*.

PLEASE NOTE:

Research appearing in journals or books cannot be accepted, including corresponding pre-publication drafts. All submission winners will be posted on the AERA Division H website. Hence, there can be no copyright conflicts.

Descriptions for each category

Below are descriptions for each category. Please be sure to select the correct category for your submission.

1. Applied Research

- 1a. Advances in Methodology, or**
- 1b. Applied Research Reports**

The first category includes studies that fall into two subgroups of applied research. The first, **Advances in Methodology**, includes studies using innovative methodology and/or explication of a new methodology that will advance the state of the art in the field. These publications should explain the innovation or methodological advance so it can be replicated; and should include a discussion of special conditions that affect the use of the methodology.

The second, **Applied Research Reports**, encourages submissions that seek to understand/solve real world problems and challenges faced by school districts, state departments, or policy makers; and help identify innovative interventions (programs, professional development, technology, etc.) that improve outcomes for students and schools. Outstanding reports should include a problem/challenge statement, strong methodological analysis to support a deeper understanding of the challenge(s) and recommendations based on findings. Submissions may include but are not limited to in-house institutional research, action research, or studies conducted by external researchers.

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2. Program Evaluation

This category focuses on evaluations designed to inform decision makers. Studies may highlight any curricular area, project, or program in a school system. They may be formative implementation studies, summative outcome studies, or a combination of both.

3. Assessment/Accountability

These submissions develop and/or use results from assessment or accountability systems. This may include effective reporting of results, how results were actually used, or examination of unintended positive or negative side-effects at all levels, from classroom formative assessment systems to large-scale, high-stakes systems. Submissions may include documents and/or presentations.

4. Outstanding Dissertation/Thesis

This category is for dissertations/theses developed in and approved by a graduate school program. Research must address a study in applied research, evaluation, assessment, or accountability within a school/school district setting. The submission must include a 10-15 page summary of the study and a 1-2 page transmittal letter from a committee advisor indicating the most noteworthy attributes in recommending the dissertation or thesis for this honor.

[Submit only the abstract, 10-15 page summary of the study, and a 1-2 page transmittal letter from a committee advisor or member in MS Word or PDF format. The full dissertation will not be reviewed.]

5. Communicating Research, Accountability, Evaluation and/or Assessment to lay audiences

This section encourages submissions that inform strategic planning, policy, and practice through innovative communication methods. Submissions may be intended for audiences such as school staff (teachers and administrators), parents, community members, assessment professionals, district administrators, state department staff, or policy makers.

Outstanding submissions will clearly identify a) intended audience, and b) purpose or goal of the communication. New and creative methods of communication are encouraged; submissions may include items like a brochure, pamphlet, report, video, web site, or online tool.

How the entries will be judged

A panel of reviewers will judge each category, and all Division H members are invited to serve as panelists. Additionally, we will invite the Division H 2015 award recipients to serve as the chairpersons to judge entries in their respective category. For categories with more than 20 entries, at the discretion of the Division H Year 2016 OPC Chairs, a second panel may be appointed to ensure timeliness of reviews.

If you would like to serve as a panelist, please complete the online survey:
<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/2016OutstandingPubReviewer>

How to Submit an Entry

Stacey Merola and Rachel Durham will be coordinating the work of the 2016 Outstanding Publication Competition Committee. You must submit an electronic copy of your submission, any supporting material, and the completed submission form to:

divisionh.outstandingpubs@gmail.com

Deadline: All materials must be emailed by midnight, the night of January 15, 2016 and sent directly to the Division H Year 2016 Outstanding Publication Competition email, as detailed above. If you have any questions, please contact Rachel at (410) 516-4936 or by email at rdurham@jhu.edu, or Stacey at (703) 447-7883 or by e-mail at stacey_merola@merolaresearch.com.

Electronic submissions must include the following:

1. The 2016 OPC Submission Form.
2. The report, essay or pamphlet/brochure in MS Word or PDF format.
3. Additional material noted within the category requirements. If you are submitting video or other non-document forms of media, please contact Stacey or Rachel.
4. For web-based product submissions, include the link, an overview of the product, and an explanation of how it is used & who the audience is.