

Looking Forward by Looking Back: Introduction to the Conference Proceedings Issue

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Welcome to the first conference proceedings issue of *The Researcher*. This issue serves as a milestone for those of us on the current NRMERA Executive Board for several reasons. First, this issue serves as the first issue for which I am proud to serve as the editor of *The Researcher*, after having served as guest co-editor with my colleague Dr. Tammy Abernathy in the last issue. I was very honored to be named editor by the Executive Board at the 2013 annual meeting and hope to live up to their expectations of publishing high-quality educational research and bringing more attention to the great work done by NRMERA members.

Second, as far as anyone on the Executive Board can recall, we have never published a conference proceedings issue. We discussed at our Executive Board meeting how important it would be to share with a wider audience the wonderful research that we all see at the annual conference, and what better way than to have an opportunity for presenters to write up a brief paper for *The Researcher*? We plan on making this an annual issue, always following the conference, so as you are planning your proposals for the 2014 conference now, start planning your submission for the conference proceedings issue.

Finally, this is our first of three planned issues for the year. The Executive Board and I are committed to bringing *The Researcher* back to a regular publication schedule, one that authors and readers can rely upon. We want authors to feel confident that if they submit a manuscript to us, they will receive a timely review and a fair chance for publication. We want NRMERA members, and others who discover *The Researcher* and begin reading it online, to know that they can count on us for a regular source of solid educational research on a variety of topics. I hope to demonstrate that with this issue.

In this issue, we have chosen papers that represent the broad variety of educational research topics that are often represented at the annual NRMERA conference. The papers are divided into two categories, *Research Studies* and *Research to Practice*. In *Research Studies*, we have papers that come from the various paper presentations at the conference. In all of these papers, authors were required to share the research base supporting their study, their methodology, and a brief report of their results. In this section, we have topics in both K-12 education and higher education, studies addressing classroom teachers and administrators, studies related to educational psychology, and diversity. In *Research to Practice*, the authors were instructed to emphasize how their research topics translate into everyday practices for classroom teachers, school administrators, or college professors. These papers were the results of workshop sessions at the conference or the "Learn at Lunch" sessions. Again, in this section we have topics of

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interest to a variety of readers, whether your interest is at the K-12 classroom level or if you are in higher education.

I want to thank our Executive Board members for their diligent work in reviewing a large number of paper submissions for this issue, and because of the timing, doing so over the holidays. Because of the nature of the issue, reviewers could not read just one or two papers, but needed to read multiple papers and rank order them, so we could identify the best papers for publication out of similar topics. This was very time intensive and could never have been accomplished without a great deal of help.

If you have not yet reviewed the revised submission guidelines available on our website, please do so. We have created two new columns for *The Researcher* that we would like to have as regular features in each issue going forward, and I want to encourage you to submit manuscripts for those columns. We are also looking for original research manuscripts for our regular issues. We are eager for this revitalization of *The Researcher* and hope to involve as many NRMERA members as possible; we hope you will consider us as a possible publication home for your educational research.