



May 13, 2020

Dear NRMERA Members,

It is with regret that I am announcing the postponement of the 2020 NRMERA conference in Ketchum/Sun Valley, Idaho, to October 2021 due to COVID-19. The Executive Committee met and determined to proceed with postponement out of an abundance of caution for members' health and for the fiscal stability of the organization.

**Members' Health.** As you know, we are in the midst of a pandemic caused by the novel coronavirus, COVID-19. While case rate has been on the decline, noted health officials have predicted a possible resurgence in fall, and the CDC has cautioned against holding events of more than 50 people. The NRMERA Executive Committee does not want to put our members' health at risk by having a live conference this fall.

**Fiscal Responsibility.** Several universities have already announced that funded conference travel will be disallowed or restricted in the fall, which would reduce the number of members able to travel to the conference (if they were even willing to do so considering the health concerns). If attendance were not high enough, the organization could lose thousands of dollars based on the contractual obligations to the hotel. The Limelight Hotel has been great to work with, as they recognize the health concerns and are willing to postpone the conference for one year without any contractual change in arrangements or cost to the NRMERA organization. (Outright cancellation is not contractually allowable, so is not a fiscally-viable option.)

**Online Alternatives.** The NRMERA Executive Committee recognizes that many members have research ready to share, some may be counting on the conference for building their vita, etc. While there will not be a live 2020 Conference, there are going to be some online alternative opportunities provided. The NRMERA journal, *Educational Research: Theory and Practice*, will publish a special conference edition. There will be a special page on the website dedicated to the 2020 Conference as well, with possible fundraisers and other opportunities. More details will be made available on the website, [www.nrmera.org](http://www.nrmera.org), when they are worked out.

**Organization Details.** Due to the unique pandemic-related circumstances the world and our organization finds itself in, the Executive Committee has voted to extend the terms of the organization officers for the period of one year to maintain continuity. This allows the Idaho president to still host the conference in Sun Valley, and the Montana president-elect to continue with her Montana-based conference plans, moved to 2022. The secretary and treasurer will also continue in their offices, as will the immediate past-president and the student representative.

Since NRMERA state representatives are elected on rotating odd/even two-year terms, extending the terms a year would completely throw the rotation off. Therefore, current NRMERA state representatives of member states who are up for new representation will hold virtual state caucuses in October, no later than the 16<sup>th</sup>. This includes the states of Colorado, Idaho, Montana, North Dakota, and Utah. As there is no current Utah representative, the president will host that caucus. Since the Wyoming representative has recently resigned, the past-president will host a virtual caucus to elect a new representative to finish out the term. New state representatives will be announced on the website after October 16.

**Moving Forward.** We on the Executive Committee extend a thank you to all NRMERA members for their understanding of these decisions and their continued support of our amazing organization. We look forward to your participation in the alternative 2020 options, and to seeing you again in person in 2021.

Sincerely,

Amanda Eller, President  
Northern Rocky Mountain Educational Research Association