Call for Poster Proposals
14th Annual South Florida Education Research Conference
Saturday June 6, 2015

Guiding Principles: Honoring Inquiry, Promoting Mentoring, and Fostering Scholarship

Conference Mission: The purpose of the Annual South Florida Education Research Conference (SFERC) is to enhance the existing research culture in South Florida. The research culture is enhanced when faculty mentor students and colleagues through the writing and submission process, reviewers and editors provide feedback with the intent of helping to develop the authors’ writing and research skills, and when faculty share their scholarship with colleagues. The conference provides a meaningful vehicle for the preparation, mentorship, and presentation of scholarly work by students and faculty of member institutions and the community.

Conference Philosophy: Decades of educational research indicate that the practice of educating our nation’s citizens cannot be judged from a single vantage point. Individuals come to the educational enterprise with different needs and goals often addressed through educational research that weaves a tapestry among knowledge, theory, practice and possessing the habits of minds for showing curiosity and passion about learning through inquiry. Work is welcome that uses diverse applications of educational research and the behavioral, psychological, and cultural viewpoints that exist at local, national, and international levels. Conference participants are encouraged to consider the richness of the diverse content areas in education across the lifespan in and out of school and across disciplines.

The Lynn University Outstanding Poster Presentation Award: This award is presented to acknowledge, in the name of Lynn University, outstanding scholarship on a poster created by a student and presented at the SFERC. This award is judged and awarded on the day of the conference according to the following criteria:

1. Organization. The placement of individual elements of the display should help the reader understand the study and its results.
2. Visual appeal. The display should be attractive, encouraging readers to consider all the information being conveyed.
3. Clarity of the problem. The problem statement should be succinct and easy for readers to understand.
4. Significance of the research question(s). The guiding question(s) of the project should be one worth investigating; it should be relevant and further the knowledge base in the field.
5. Literature review. In order to maintain credibility with readers, the poster’s author should display knowledge of recent scholarly publishing on the topic. The literature review also provides important background information, and situates the study among other investigations that have been done on the topic.
6. Methodology. The steps taken to investigate the research question(s) are sound and adhere to generally accepted research-based practices. The methodology should fit the research question(s) and be explained clearly.
7. Clarity of the reporting of the findings. The reader should be able to understand the findings easily. Relevant data should be exhibited and explained.

8. Interpretation of the results. The poster’s author should provide an explanation of what the findings mean. This interpretation should reveal not only understanding of the research question(s), methodology, and findings, but also insight into what the findings mean for professional practice in the field.

9. Importance of the project in advancing the field. Taken as a whole, the poster and the study it represents should represent new evidence that can help practitioners make better decisions in professional practice.

10. Presenter’s ability to verbally communicate about the project. While the poster should be able to stand alone in communicating about the investigation, its author should be able to speak about it with clarity and enthusiasm, answer questions in a way that displays knowledge of the field, and relate to colleagues in a professional manner.

Who Should Submit: Posters are welcomed from practitioners, students, and faculty from any discipline interested in any aspect of education, teaching, or learning across the lifespan and across fields; management and administration of organizations such as schools, community outreach, parks and recreation, not for profit and for profit; and workforce development, globalization, international and

The South Florida Education Research Conference
hosted by Florida International University in partnership with Barry University, DeVry University, Florida Atlantic University, Florida Memorial University, Johnson and Wales University, Keiser University, Lynn University, Miami Dade College, Nova Southeastern University, St. Thomas University, and University of Miami
urban issues. Posters may be submitted by single or multiple authors. Students are encouraged to submit posters based on theses/dissertations, class papers, or other scholarly work.

**Why Present a Poster:** Poster presentations can be valuable for promoting and developing new concepts in a way that crystallizes thinking in particular areas. This particular format also helps investigators and practitioners keep abreast of developments in fields that may not be intimately related to their own major research and professional interests. Posters offer the opportunity to present data and have substantive discussions with interested colleagues.

**Conference Timeline**
- Poster Submission Deadline – **Monday, January 19, 2015**
- Authors Notified of Submission Status – **Monday, March 16, 2015**
- Camera-Ready Poster abstracts – **Monday, April 6, 2015**

**Submission Instructions**
To submit poster proposals go to [digitalcommons.fiu.edu/sferc](http://digitalcommons.fiu.edu/sferc).

Create an account and provide information about yourself (and your co-authors, if applicable) and the poster. For each poster proposal submission you will be asked to provide the following:
- All author(s) identification/contact information and institutional affiliation (University, Department, and program).
- Authorship category: student(s)-only student(s)-faculty, or faculty-only paper
- The Warrant Statement.

Upload a blind copy of the poster proposal - Name this file attachment with the first two words of the poster title (e.g., TeacherEfficacy.doc). The blind copy of the poster proposal has to include the following elements:
- A title in **14 pt. Bold letters**
- An abstract of 50 words maximum
- A supporting summary of 1000 words maximum. The supporting summary should include the following elements [a recommended word limit for each element is provided in brackets]:
  - Statement of the Problem [200 words] – a description of a large societal problem (educational, technological, political, economic, etc.) and a discussion of an aspect of this bigger problem that remains unknown, unclear, outdated, or unaddressed in any way by researchers or practitioners in your field of research or practice.
  - Purpose and/or Research Question(s) [50 words] – a one sentence describing how your research intents to address the aspect of the bigger problem that remains unknown, unclear, outdated, or unaddressed in any way by researchers or practitioners in your field of research or practice. You can also provide research questions that you think could help you achieve your intent.
  - Literature Review [250 words] – an overview of the most relevant literature (e.g., theories, models, concepts, seminal works, recent studies). Provide correct in-text citations of these works.
  - Research Methodology [200 words] – detailed explanation of your research design (i.e., participants and setting, data collection, analysis, and management procedures and tools)
- Findings or Results [200 words] – a summary and a discussion of the most important findings/results. If you have not collected and analyzed the data, discuss what you hope to find and provide a timeline of when you start and finish collecting and analyzing data.
- Implications for the Field [100 words] – a discussion of how your findings or results could be useful for future research, theory, teaching, policy, and/or practice.

The proposal should
- Be written in MS Word, font Times New Roman 12 pt (except for the title).
- Have one inch margins on all sides.
- Provide references after the supporting summary. References are not included in the 1000 word length requirement for the supporting summary.

**Research with Human Subjects:** Please follow the research protocol of your institution.

**Review and Selection Process**

The Poster Review and Selection Committee will screen poster proposal submissions for adherence to the submission instructions and APA (6th ed.) guidelines. Proposals that do not conform these basic instructions will be returned to author(s) for corrections and possible re-submission within two weeks of receipt. All submissions will undergo a double blind review by the Review and Selection Committee, who will review each proposal for content, clarity, and organization. Proposals may be accepted,
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accepted with revisions, or rejected.

Monday, March 16, 2015
Notification of Submission Status
Authors will receive a letter with notification of submission status and feedback from reviewers.

For more information about the conference or questions, please, visit education.fiu.edu/research_conference/ or contact Dr. Tonette S. Rocco roccot@fiu.edu or any member of the Steering Committee.

Monday, April 6, 2015
Submission of Camera-Ready 100 word Abstract to the Proceedings Committee
Authors are expected to incorporate reviewer feedback and return their revised abstracts to be published in the proceedings. Please assist us in our efforts to produce high quality proceedings by following instructions, addressing editors/reviewers suggestions for improvement, meeting deadlines, and adhering to APA 6th edition guidelines.

Poster Presentations on the Day of the Conference: Several posters are presented during the 50-minute sessions organized around common themes. The audience circulates among the posters, stopping to discuss papers of particular interest to them. Authors present their research using a visual medium with key excerpts from the research displayed on an approximately 4’ high x 8’ wide free-standing bulletin board. Poster presentations should incorporate illustrative materials such as tables, graphs, photographs, and large-print text, and materials should be readable from a distance of three feet (primary text font should be 20 points or larger, and headings font at least 30 points). Posters should display data, policy analysis, or theoretical work in a visually appealing poster format to encourage interactive communication.

Note: All steering committee members, moderators, and other volunteers, presenters, their family, friends, and other guests are expected to register for the SFERC.