Call for Papers
15th Annual South Florida Education Research Conference
Saturday June 4, 2016

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

Conferece 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 FIU COE Lorraine R. Gay Award for Outstanding Research: This award is presented to the best paper authored by an individual student or group of students.

The FIU Barnes & Noble Best Faculty-Student Paper Award: This award is presented to the best paper authored by a faculty-student(s) team.

Who Should Submit: Papers 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 urban issues. Papers may be submitted by single or multiple authors. Students are encouraged to submit papers based on theses/dissertations, class papers, or other scholarly work.

Tracks
- Global learning
- Diversity studies
- PreK-12 and teacher education
- Workforce, career and professional development
- Higher education, student affairs and lifelong learning
- Leisure, health and wellness, and community education
- Technology, digital media, and literacy integration

Paper Categories
Reports on Research: Reports on research that are empirical studies and use qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods approaches.

Methods and Issues in Research:
Controversial and critical questions vital to research and practice, such as in research methods, ethics, the use of research in practice, practice-generated needs for research, and processes by which researchers determine the areas in which to conduct research.

Theory, Model Development, and Literature Reviews: Insights on theory, a critique of an existing model or presentation of a new model, or a review of the literature that provides a new perspective on the existing work. Examples include an in-depth exploration of issues related to teaching and learning throughout the lifespan in formal education settings and beyond.

Perspectives in Practice: Questions and concerns regarding practitioners' work in various settings. This may include, but is not limited to, practice in education and training programs in schools, universities, corporate and community organizations, leisure activities for children and adults, or other extra-curricular activities. Examples include papers that address problems and/or solutions in areas of practice such as curriculum design, strategy selection, teaching and learning, or program implementation.

Evaluation Studies or Action Research: Reports on studies involving needs assessment, priority setting, goal analysis, evaluation or other forms of applied research using evaluation or action research approaches. Examples include reflections on proposal development, grant work, and reports on progress of the grant at meaningful stages.
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Conference Timeline

Authors Notified of Submission Status – Monday, February 22, 2016
Revised Papers Sent to the Proceedings Committee Deadline – Monday, March 14, 2016
Camera-Ready Papers Deadline – Monday, April 4, 2016

Submission Instructions

To submit papers go to digitalcommons.fiu.edu/sferc. Upload a blind copy of the paper - Name this file attachment with the first two words of the paper title (e.g., TeacherEfficacy.doc).

Create an account and provide information about yourself (and your co-authors, if applicable) and the paper. For each paper submission you will be asked to provide the following:

- All author(s) identification/contact information and institutional affiliation (University, Department, and program).
- Track (See Track categories list)
- Paper Category (see Paper Categories list and guidelines)
- Three (3) Key Words that are not in the title to characterize the focus of the paper
- Authorship category: student(s)-only, student(s)-faculty, or faculty-only paper
- Name and contact information of a faculty mentor/sponsor, if applicable.
- The Warrant Statement.

The elements of the paper are:

- A title in 14 pt. Bold letters
- An abstract of 25-50 words maximum
- MS Word, font Times New Roman 12 pt.
- Eight (8) single spaced pages, including references.
- One inch margins on all sides.

Note: A maximum of two extra pages may be added after the references and can be used for tables, figures, and/or pictures.

Papers must conform to APA 6th edition guidelines.

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

Review and Selection Process

The Review and Selection Committee will screen papers for adherence to Submission Instructions and APA (6th ed.) guidelines. Papers 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 faculty and student reviewers, who will review each paper for content, clarity, and organization. Papers may be accepted, accepted with revisions, or rejected. To volunteer to review, contact Dr. Tonette S. Rocco roccot@fiu.edu.

Monday, February 22, 2016
Notification of Submission Status
Authors will receive a letter with notification of submission status and feedback from reviewers. Authors are expected to either make revisions or address the reason the revision was not made in a cover letter within three weeks of receipt.

Monday, March 14, 2016
Submission of the Revised Papers to the Proceedings Committee

Authors must re-submit the revised 8-page single spaced paper along with the cover letter that describes what changes were made to Proceedings Committee. The proceedings editors will edit every paper, making necessary formatting and editing changes. The edited papers will then be returned to the authors. Authors are expected to return camera-ready papers.

Monday, April 4, 2016
Submission of Camera-Ready Papers to the Proceedings Committee

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.

Paper Presentations on the Day of the Conference

One to two papers may be presented during the 50-minute sessions organized around common themes. Each session will be in a separate room with up to three concurrent sessions scheduled. The presenter of each paper will be allotted 10 to 15 minutes to present the key points from the paper. Interactive presentations are encouraged. MS PowerPoint, overheads, or handouts are encouraged but not required.

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

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