

# NCARE FALL 2005 NEWSLETTER

FALL 2005

## 2006 ANNUAL MEETING

### CALL FOR PROPOSALS

North Carolina Association for Research in Education

**Conference Dates: March 30-31, 2006**

**Conference Location: Holiday Inn Select, Hickory NC**

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The North Carolina Association of Research for Education (NCARE) invites proposals for its 2006 Annual Meeting, to be held March 30-31, 2006 in Hickory, North Carolina. Proposal submissions will be accepted up to **January 13, 2006**. Those responding to this call for papers, posters, and symposia will be informed about the status of acceptance of their proposal by **January 23, 2006**. Pre-registration for the conference should be submitted by **March 6, 2006**.

### How to Submit a Paper or Poster Proposal

A paper, poster, or symposium on any educational research or evaluation topic likely to interest North Carolina educators will be considered for the program. All proposals will be reviewed by at least two referees, using the criteria of quality, originality, and significance.

All proposals should be submitted electronically (for details go to the website—<http://ncare.us>). Individuals need to include an abstract (no more than 250 words) and proposal summary (approximately 1200 words or 2 pages single space). All proposals should include:

- a) Objectives
- b) Perspective or theoretical framework
- c) Methods or techniques
- d) Data source
- e) Results and conclusions
- f) Educational and research implications

Visit the website for additional information—<http://ncare.us>

Details about the upcoming NCARE 2006 Annual Meeting can be found at the following website.

<http://ncare.us>

## NCARE AWARD WINNERS FOR 2005

### NCARE Distinguished Paper Award

#### Dr. Meagan Karvonen

The winner of the 2005 Distinguished Paper Award was **Dr. Meagan Karvonen** from Western Carolina University. Her paper was titled *Relationship between IEP Characteristics and Test Scores on an Alternate Assessment for Students with Significant Cognitive Disabilities*.

Dr. Karvonen will receive \$500 and an invitation to present her paper at the 2006 AERA Annual Meeting.

### Marvin Wyne Outstanding Student Paper

#### Shawna Helf

The winner of the Marvin Wyne Outstanding Student Paper for 2005 was **Shawna Helf** from UNC Charlotte. The paper was titled *The Effects of Two Grouping Conditions on Reading Achievement and Instructional Efficiency for Students At-Risk for Reading Failure*.

Shawna Helf will receive \$100. Congratulations for earning her PhD in Special Education.

## Call for Nominations for NCARE Due by December 1, 2005

### NCARE Positions

The Nominating Committee of NCARE is issuing a call for nominations for the office of:

- **President-elect**
- **Treasurer**

Nominations are also being accepted for the following open positions on the Board of Directors:

- **NC Department of Public Instruction Representative**
- **Higher Education Representative**
- **At-large Representative**

### Eligibility

To be eligible for nomination the candidate must be a member of NCARE at the time that he or she is nominated. All nominees will be contacted prior to the election by the Nomination Committee to ascertain their willingness to have their name placed on the ballot and serve if elected.

Please send the candidate's name, email address and phone number to one of the members of the Nomination Committee before December 1, 2005.

Winners will be announced at the 2006 Annual Meeting.

### Nomination Committee

Dr. Gongshu Zhang, Guilford County Schools, [zhangg@gcsnc.com](mailto:zhangg@gcsnc.com)

Dr. Marty Ward, Winston-Salem Forsyth County Schools, [mward@wsfcs.k12.nc.us](mailto:mward@wsfcs.k12.nc.us)

Dr. Barbara Howard, SERVE, [howardb@serve.org](mailto:howardb@serve.org)

**Nominations are due December 1, 2005.**

## NCARE Membership

### Renew Your Membership

Your membership may have lapsed. If the number on your newsletter mailing label is greater than 365, you are no longer a member of NCARE. Membership is only **\$10** for the year. Go to the NCARE website for additional information about renewing your membership.

<http://ncare.us>

### Student Involvement in NCARE

NCARE provides opportunities for students to be involved in a research and interact with other researchers. The membership dues are only **\$5** annually. Students have a discounted rate for the NCARE annual meeting and are eligible for Marvin Wyne Outstanding Student Paper Award. Applications can be found at the NCARE website.

The North Carolina Association for Research in Education works to improve the quality of education in North Carolina through research and evaluation.

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT BY HELMUTS FEIFS

### Katrina the Great

In the coming months and years we will be inundated with “lessons learned from Hurricane Katrina.” Some of these will be important, many quickly forgotten. For those of us that sat above the maelstrom in North Carolina, waiting for another of the hurricane sisters to visit, what did Katrina want us to remember? Category 5 hurricanes are serious business. Have three days of non-perishable food and clean water on hand. Learn to swim. Don’t be old, or sick, or fat, or poor. Live in the mountains. Have a plan for survival. Be wary of government.

All of these, and more, are important, but for researchers, one of the cardinal lessons revolves around what we do best: research and its uses. And while every now and then above the clatter of finger pointing, the shuffle of position changing and the quiet whisper of cover-up we hear: “We knew this. There was research done recently and many years ago that suggested the levees would give way, that social infrastructure might not stand the strain, and that economic dislocation and chaos may result. The Gulf is warming. The Gulf is warming.”

Significant research at universities, private research findings and recommendations, government research scientists of every color and stripe all pointed to things that could happen, most likely would happen, and would most certainly happen. Reports printed, reports posted, reports that lit up a thousand screens in classrooms, boardrooms, and other venues. And then they were put away to be sometimes referenced but generally forgotten. And the folks who did them moved on. Moved away, physically and mentally!

What then does Katrina whisper to us? Research is serious business. At its best and most vital, research links the theoretical to the possible and makes a positive difference. The most important message of Hurricane Katrina for us in the research field is that we must continue to make the links from research to the real-world needs of people and places. We cannot wait for policymakers, business leaders and politicians to understand how our research relates to their decisions. We need to find ways to “connect the dots” for them.

Our work is not complete when a report is edited, printed and placed neatly on a shelf or on a Web site. We need to continue to be an action agent. Ask your research sponsors what they are doing with your findings and recommendations. Ask why or why not. Ask who else needs to see how this connects to needs in the world. The outcome of research, after all, is a defined form, something that didn’t exist before. We as the creators of that form have an intellectual obligation to ensure that it is treated with the respect that it deserves and that our good work is used to help make others’ lives better. If we don’t listen to the research, then Katrina has only one message: “I’ll be back.” —Helmuts

### Contact Information for NCARE Board

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**NCARE—<http://ncare.us>**

**NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH IN EDUCATION**

**Officers**

Helmuts Feifs—President

George Olson—President-Elect

Gongshu Zhang—Past President

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**N O R T H C A R O L I N A A S S O C I A T I O N F O R  
R E S E A R C H I N E D U C A T I O N ( N C A R E )**



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