

NCARE SPRING 2005 NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2005

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT—HELMUTS FEIFS

Eric Hoffer, the quintessential American philosopher, once noted about individual identity, "What are we when we are alone? Some, when they are alone, cease to exist." What applies to us as individuals often pertains to organizations as well. To be viable, organizations need to serve a purpose that their individual members find useful, rewarding, meeting of individual goals, and fun. In its recent history, NCARE has done some of these things at various times and all of these things at other times. However, we can and should do better.

Recently, I asked a North Carolina LEA Testing Director, a North Carolina School of Education Dean, and a co-worker, "What do you know about NCARE?" Their replies were disappointingly the same: "What's an NCARE?" "What does it do?" When I explained NCARE's mission, what we are about, and why knowledge about and membership in NCARE would be a good thing, they all

agreed. Two had suggestions about how we could increase our visibility and our service profile. And that is our challenge.

We need to increase our active membership at least threefold. We need to ask our current and potential members what would make our organization one they could actively support and one to which they could contribute. From where will these potential members come?

There are many educational communities that could contribute to NCARE. Expanded membership from UNC campuses, community colleges, junior colleges, private colleges, public and independent schools, and business trade and virtual schools would add richness to our work and purpose. Current membership from all these groups is disappointingly low. Through a broadened and more inclusive network of members, we could cross-fertilize and gain great strength through our interconnectedness and common interests.

Are we to assume that these educators have nothing to contribute to the dialog about academic excellence in North Carolina schools? I think not. Our challenge is simple, our path clear. We need to vigorously encourage membership in NCARE. We need to solicit ideas (such as Dr. Marty Ward's excellent idea detailed in this issue) from existing members. We need to become actively involved in making NCARE not a junior level AERA wannabe, but a unique, vibrant growing organization in service to its members and to the research and educational community in North Carolina. I hope you will join me in meeting this challenge.

Call me, call a Board member, send us letters, or stop us in the hall and ask about membership.

Helmuts Feifs
(hfeifs@dpi.state.nc.us)

RESULTS OF THE ELECTION



The results of 2005 NCARE election are:

George Olson—President-elect

Claudia Flowers—Secretary

David Aman—K-12 Representative

Bill Sugar—At-Large

Barbara Howard—At-Large

Each year the Nominating Committee submits a slate of officers for election to the NCARE Board of Directors. Six directors will be chosen to serve for two years, with three being elected each year in alternating years. The NCARE Board will consist of the President, President-Elect, Past President, Secretary, Treasurer, and six directors.

Gongshu Zhang will chair this year's Nominating Committee. If you are interested in running or in nominating someone for a Board position, contact Gongshu at gzhang@dpi.state.nc.us.

THANK YOU

Thank You Gongshu Zhang

Gongshu Zhang served as NCARE President this past year. During his tenure, Gongshu increased NCARE awareness across North Carolina. His knowledge of school policy and the impact of No Child Left Behind in North Carolina has enriched all members of the organization. We are fortunate to have Gongshu continue to serve on the NCARE board during 2005-2006.

Good-Bye to Departing Board Members

Three members of the NCARE Board have completed their service. Laura Rogers served as President of NCARE in 2003-2004. Susan Agruso and Paula Egelson served as board members from 2003-2005. The organization thanks them for their time and efforts toward improving education research.



Gongshu Zhang

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Get Involved

Enclosed in this newsletter is an application to become a member of NCARE. Membership is affordable and connects professionals who care about education. If every member would ask one person to join, we would double our membership. For those in higher education, NCARE is a good organization for involving students in research. Additional membership forms are located on our homepage at <http://ncare.us>

Submit Papers for 2005 Awards

Researchers applying for the Distinguished Paper Award should send an electronic copy of their paper to Bill Sugar at sugarw@coe.edu.edu.

Researchers applying for the Marvin Wyne Outstanding Student Paper Award should send an electronic copy of their paper to Comfort Okpala at cokpala@chawu.edu.

The due date is **June 1, 2005**.

Database Clearinghouse

NCARE is considering serving as a clearinghouse for data sets that could be used for further analysis or general practice for students. The “payoff” for the institutions that allow the use of their data would be their receipt of any interesting findings. The students could not publish any findings without the permission of the submitting institutions. Please contact Helmut Feifs at

hfeifs@dpi.state.nc.us.

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

NCARE AWARD WINNERS FOR 2004

NCARE Distinguished Paper Award

The 2004 Distinguished Paper Award went to Charles L. Thompson from East Carolina University, Gary Sykes from Michigan State University, and Linda Skrla from Texas A&M University. Their paper was titled *Instructionally-Effective School Districts: A Review of Research*.

Student Award

The Marvin Wyne Outstanding Student Paper for 2004 went to Mark Ellis, Samantha Burg, Tate Gould, Rita Joyner, and Patricia Sylvester from UNC Chapel Hill. The paper was titled *Examining Middle School Students’ Conceptual Understanding in Mathematics*.



Laura Rogers

NCARE—<http://ncare.us>

**NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION OF RESEARCH FOR
EDUCATION**

Officers

Helmuts Feifs—President

George Olson—President-Elect

Gongshu Zhang—Past President

William Ware—Treasurer

Claudia Flowers—Secretary

Board

David Aman

Belinda Black

Barbara Howard

Comfort Okpala

Bill Sugar

Marty Ward

**NORTH CAROLINA ASSOCIATION FOR
RESEARCH IN EDUCATION (NCARE)**



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