

MLER Middle Level Education Research Special Interest Group

The Chronicle of Middle Level Education Research



Message from the Chair

Points of Interest:

- Message from the Chair
- Executive Advisor Report
- MLER-SIG Business Meeting Minutes

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As your new Chair for the MLER SIG, I want to welcome you to this issue of the *Chronicle*. I have been a member of the MLER SIG since 1997 and have served on the SIG Council, as Treasurer, and as the Program Chair. I consider our SIG to be my professional home; it has been an essential part of my professional growth and development over the past 15 years. I have collaborated with many of my SIG colleagues on numerous publications, presentations, and projects. I have found it to be a very beneficial experience for me over the years. As Chair, I hope to help our SIG continue to serve the needs of our members, as well as continuing to develop and foster relationships with other organizations committed to meeting the needs of young adolescents.

I want to take this opportunity to express my

appreciation to our outgoing Officers and Council members. As a SIG I feel that we have been fortunate to have strong leadership over the past years. I am grateful to Penny Bishop who served as Chair of the SIG for the past two years. Penny has moved into the Immediate Past-Chair position where she will continue to contribute to the future of the SIG. I am certain that I will call upon her experience and guidance during my tenure as Chair.

For the past five years, Vince Anfara has served as the SIG's first ever Executive Advisor. During his time as the Executive Advisor, Vince was also serving on AERA's SIG Executive Council. In this capacity, he was able to help advise the SIG on upcoming changes or revisions to AERA's policies concerning SIGs. As Executive Advisor, Vince worked to successfully develop relationships between the



Steve Mertens

Illinois State University

SIG and other middle level organizations. His experience and tireless efforts have helped to make the MLER SIG one of the most active and productive SIGs in AERA. At the most recent AERA meetings in Vancouver, Vince was honored with the SIG's highest award, the Lipka Lifetime Achievement Award. The SIG conducted an election last spring and I
(Continued on page 4)

RMLE Online Call for Manuscripts

The editor of *Research in Middle Level Education Online* is seeking manuscripts concerning quantitative and qualitative research studies, case studies, action research studies, as well as research syntheses.

RMLE Online is an international, peer-reviewed research journal published by the National Middle School Association.

Guidelines for contributors, a listing of the Editorial Review Board, and past issues

of *RMLE Online* are available at www.nmsa.org

If you have questions, please contact Karen Swanson, Editor, at SWANSON_KW@mercuer.edu.

NEWS FROM THE EXECUTIVE ADVISOR

Dave Strahan, Western Carolina University

Having a chance to serve as Executive Advisor for our MLER SIG is a great honor for me. I am humbled to think that I am following Vince Anfara in this role, one of the most influential researchers I have known. I offer many thanks to them for guiding the creation of such a strong SIG. Although my term is just beginning, I would like to take this opportunity to share a few thoughts about our SIG with readers of the newsletter.

First, it may help to remind readers that we have made impressive progress as a group of researchers. I attended my first NMSA

conferences in 1977 and had a chance to participate in one of the first research sessions ever scheduled. As a young doctoral student, I was anxious about making a presentation, especially one that included data analysis with "step-wise regressions," a procedure I had only begun to learn. I clearly remember that we drew a large crowd, that participants were attentive to our presentations, and that we ran out of copies of our "publication," a stapled packet of dittoed papers. In the mid-1980s, I served a term as editor of

the Research Annual for NMSA, the distant forerunner of *Research in Middle Level Education*. At that time, our biggest challenge was finding research related to the middle level and encouraging researchers to submit manuscripts.

We have come a long, long way in 35 years. *Research in Middle Level Education Online* is now a well-respected journal. We have a backlog of articles accepted and ready to publish, perhaps as
(continued on page 4)

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Kathleen Brineger (2012-2014)
Johnson State College

Robert Capraro (2011-2013)
Texas A&M University

Lisa Harrison (2011-2013)
Ohio University

Bridget Mahoney (2012-2014)
University of South Florida

Frances Spielhagen (2012-2014)
Mount Saint Mary College

Nicole Thompson (2011-2013)
Mississippi State University

AMLE 2012 Annual Conference MLER-SIG Business Meeting Minutes

April 13, 2012 - AERA, Vancouver B.C.

Introductions

– Penny Bishop

Executive Advisor Report

– Vincent Anfara

AERA will need to approve by-laws due to a mishap. Two changes: (a) vote to make the executive advisor to a non-officer, (b) the Lipka award will be awarded to a SIG member. Once the by-laws are passed, the SIG members can vote on the award.

We have been a healthy and vital SIG as far as membership numbers, but we will need to document the criteria for keeping a healthy SIG – we need to document our leadership growth, efforts to mentor graduate students – to show evidence that we are staying healthy and vital. The membership numbers are going up to a required 100, but we currently have about 140. Documents need to include minutes, email exchanges, etc., and may be included in the Chronicle.

About 40 SIG members are now involved in The National Middle Grades Research Project on Common Planning Time. It is in its second phase. Phase I, the qualitative stage has concluded; and Phase II, the quantitative stage, is in progress.

The Handbook of Resources has been started – has a

different focus from the Handbook of Middle Level Education Research. Two series are now sponsored by the SIG.

Treasurer's Report

– Shawn Falkner

The SIG served as a mechanism for funds to be paid to CPRD. \$5161.83/\$4800 is our overall balance.

2012 MLER SIG Program

– Steve Mertens

Discussed the submission of papers and 47% were accepted. Also discussed the program review process, which included 25 SIG members. Every effort was made for each proposal submission to receive 3 reviews. Some reviewers were not selected due to the descriptors given; there wasn't ample information to identify potential reviewers. In the future, interested reviewers will need to provide more specificity when filling out the descriptor page. Steve is asking that everyone provide a definitive list of areas of expertise, the review process will start this summer in July. Once the list is finalized, Steve will send it via the AERA link.

Graduate students can review proposals, but their final numbers are not counted in the final tally for the paper; however, Steve emphasized that it is a

wonderful opportunity to review papers. Steve would be happy to write a letter for a member who will be going up for tenure.

Penny emphasized the rest of the SIG sessions.

Graduate Dissertation Award

Recipient: Dr. Hilary Hughes-Decatur (Virginia Commonwealth University)

"Rethinking Girls" – special issue: Phenomenology and the Body

Hughes, H.E. (2011). Phenomenal bodies, phenomenal girls: How young adolescent girls experiencing being enough in their bodies (doctoral dissertation)

"The Purple Flowers Blog" – collected writings (poetry/prose) from writers' notebooks

Findings: "Girls are always resisting, but it was never enough. They were always working to say, no." As a researcher, Dr. Hughes had to listen closely to them, and to hear their resistance to media and community messages.

Returning Officers and Council Members

The Missing Middle Report – The Alliance Education Organization that engages more with high school policy but is including more work with middle level

education, and would like to do more work with the National Organization of Middle Level Education.

NCLB is continuing in states with waivers, and the Alliance Education is challenging schools to think more about how middle level fits in policy with regard to school reform, leadership, and policy.

Please send any information or research ideas. SIG leaders will include contact information.

Current Initiatives Continued

Membership/Outreach
– Micki Caskey

Announced that we currently have 150 members. Since January, the SIG added 31 new members. Emphasized the importance of growing a new generation of scholars.

Micki wondered about what could be added to the website – news, archives, experiences, history, etc. Penny mentioned the FaceBook page. MLER is trying to communicate with members in three technological ways.

Graduate Student Mentoring – Cheryl Ellerbrock

We have 11 mentor-mentee pairs, which is up from 2 pairs last year. This was based on conversations from AMLE and AERA last year, and encouraging a more hybrid use of email and technology to *(continued on page 4)*

Message from the Chair *(Continued from page 1)*

would like to introduce the newly elected officers and council members:

Chris Cook (Chair-Elect/Program Chair), Shawn Faulkner (Vice Chair), Cynthia Reyes (Secretary), Kenneth Anderson (Treasurer), Penny Howell (Secretary), Karen Bostic (Council Member), Kathleen Brinegar (Council Member), and Frances Spielhagen (Council Member). In addition, David Strahan was elected as Executive Advisor and Pam Angelle volunteered to serve as editor of our newsletter—*The Chronicle*. Lastly, I want to extend thanks to Micki Caskey (former

Chair) for her continued service in managing the SIG's award-winning website and to Chris Cook for serving as the newsletter editor during his tenure as Vice-Chair. I look forward to working with our great team of officers and council members.

The SIG will be conducting its semi-annual business meeting at the upcoming Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) conference in Portland, OR. The business meeting is scheduled for Friday, November 9 from 5:45-6:45 pm in room D135 in the Oregon Convention Center. Many of our

SIG colleagues will be presenting research sessions at the conference. I will be sending out a list of these presentations in late October.

In closing, I would just like to say that I am honored to be serving as the Chair of the SIG and will work together with the officers, council members, and members to continue to advance and promote the important work of the SIG. I also look forward to new and exciting opportunities for our SIG. Through our combined efforts, the MLER SIG will continue to serve as *the voice* in middle level education research.

I look forward to seeing you in Portland in November!

MLER SIG Business Meeting Minutes *(Continued from page 3)*

support each other. The SIG will offer a gift card for the mentor-mentee to go out and have coffee.

Recognition

Congratulations!!

Richard “Dick” Lipka Lifetime Achievement Award Recipient

Vincent A. Anfara, Jr. is the first recipient of the Richard “Dick” Lipka Lifetime Achievement Award. Kathleen Malu, Micki Caskey, and Steve Mertens shared personal recollections and noted Vince's numerous contributions to the SIG. Kudos to Vince!

Announcements

Fran: MGRJ
Open call for papers and need reviewers

Virginia Commonwealth University – Secondary English Education position (need middle grades folks!)

Carol Swanson (Middle Level Education Online):
Send publications

Research Summaries for AMLE (2,500 words)
There's a call on AMLE website

Nancy (NAPOLME): Online journal at NAPOLME.org

Adolescents in the Digital Age Announcement for next year.

News from the Executive Advisor *(Continued from page 2)*

many as a year's worth at a time. Research sessions at AMLE have become an important part of the organization's tradition. Our AERA SIG is one of the strongest and we have far more submissions than we can accept.

My questions for you as Executive Advisor will be about priorities for moving forward. There are thousands of issues we could study and hundreds of ways to report our findings. When I search the AERA paper repository, I am almost

overwhelmed by the range of topics – and sometimes curious about titles which seem rather esoteric. Of all the issues we could study, which matter most? How might we report our findings most meaningfully? I hope that during my term, we can continue to deliberate these issues in ways that ways that engage as many participants as possible. I look forward to the conversations.

If you enjoyed your time at AERA
April 2012
Vancouver, British Columbia...



Visit page 6-7 for information on AERA
April 27—May 1, 2013
San Francisco, California

American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting San Francisco, CA April 27-May 1, 2013

The Middle Level Education Research Special Interest Group (MLER SIG) encourages all members to attend the Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California from April 27-May 1. The MLER SIG received a large number of submissions to present and the review process is currently under way. The review and selection process will be completed in the coming weeks and decisions released at the end of October. It is shaping up to be an exciting event. Hope to see you there !

2013 AERA Conference Theme

Education and Poverty: Theory, Research, Policy and Praxis

Education has long been seen as way out of poverty. Educational systems also perpetuate cycles of poverty and wealth. Poverty interacts with education through local, national, and international systems of financial markets and the global knowledge economy. The goal is to consider the relationships of education and poverty. The theme is conceived broadly to include the ways that education theory, research, policy, and praxis contribute to alleviating economic, intellectual and moral poverty.

2013 Annual Meeting Program Committee

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Send In Your News!

Please send any items, announcements, or information you would like to have considered for publication in *The Chronicle of Middle Level Education Research* to:

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The Newsletter is published three times annually—Spring, Summer, & Fall

We're on the Web!

www.rmle.pdx.edu



The purpose of the MLER SIG is to improve, promote, and disseminate educational research reflecting early adolescence and middle level education.

Membership in the MLER-SIG connects AERA members who are committed to research issues related to young adolescents. SIG members exchange information and ideas through Annual Meeting presentations, newsletters, and informal gatherings.

Membership cost is \$10/year. The MLER-SIG (#88) is listed on the third page of the AERA Membership Application Form.

Co-Headquarter Hotels for the 2013 Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA

Grand Hyatt—345 Stockton Street (Exhibit Hall)

Hilton Union Square—333 O'Farrell Street

Hotel Nikko—222 Mason Street

Intercontinental—888 Howard Street

Parc 55—55 Cyril Magnin Street

Sir Francis Drake—450 Powell Street

Westin St. Francis—335 Powell Street

2013 Annual Meeting Program Committee

(Continued from page 6)

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Richard “Dick” Lipka Lifetime Achievement Award

The Richard “Dick” Lipka Lifetime Achievement Award is the highest honor that can be awarded by the MLER SIG. Because Dick Lipka is recognized as the founding father of the MLER SIG and as a guiding force in our organization since its inception, the SIG’s lifetime achievement award was named in his honor. The award is given only when an individual has demonstrated a level of service and leadership in middle grades education that warrants this special recognition. As a result the award is not necessarily presented annually. The recipient of this award is recognized at the annual SIG business meeting at AERA with a plaque and an honorarium of \$500.

Candidates for this prestigious award are required to meet a number of eligibility criteria, including: a significant impact on middle level education; a minimum of 15 years of actively demonstrated, distinguished service to the field; an established national (and even international) reputation; demonstrated scholarship of the highest level in professional research and writing; and maintained service to middle level education through local, state, regional, and national organizations.

In 2012, at the annual SIG business meeting, **Vincent Anfara was announced as the first recipient** of the Lipka Lifetime Achievement Award.

Information about the Lipka Lifetime Achievement Award can be found on the MLER SIG website at http://www.rmle.pdx.edu/lipka_award.htm.

Dr. Vincent Anfara Jr.
Professor and Department Chair
The University of Tennessee Educational Leadership and Policy Studies

This year, the University of Tennessee and the Middle Level Education Special Interest Group (MLER SIG) would like to congratulate Dr. Vincent Anfara Jr., the recipient of the Richard “Dick” Lipka Lifetime Achievement Award. The Lipka Lifetime Achievement Award is the highest honor that can be awarded by the MLER SIG. The award is given only when an individual has demonstrated a level of service and leadership in middle grades education that warrants this special recognition.

Before coming to The University of Tennessee in 2000, Dr. Anfara began his quest in middle grades research in 1997 at Temple University in Philadelphia.

Before entering the professorate, he worked for 23 years in both middle and high schools in Louisiana and New Mexico. His research interests focus on middle school reform, school improvement planning, leadership in middle schools, and issues related to student achievement. Dr. Anfara’s interest in middle grades research began when he was a middle level teacher for the Christian Brothers and for the Jefferson Parish Public Schools in Louisiana. According to Dr. Anfara, the middle school years are a crucial time in a young adolescents life. Over the years, middle grades education has become the victim of scrutiny and criticism, and Dr. Anfara has dedicated



his life’s work to ensuring that middle level education is seen in a positive light, and that valuable contributions are made towards researching and reforming the way middle school education is run.

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Dr. Anfara—Lipka Award Winner*(Continued from page 8)*

Although Dr. Anfara's list of publications and accomplishments are vast (with over 80 article publications and as the author/editor of 14 books related to middle level education), he points out that throughout his career, he is most proud of his chance to guide and collaborate with young researchers in their path to publication through his development of the *Handbook of Research in Middle Level Education*.

Dr. Anfara adds that it has allowed him to mentor junior faculty into the field, in their pursuit promotion and tenure. It is being able to see someone's manuscript come to life, and getting to know colleagues and fellow researchers through collaboration and teamwork that Dr. Anfara has found to be the most rewarding about his career, and is thus, most proud of. As the first time

recipient of the Lipka Award, Dr.

Anfara is both honored and gracious.

Dr. Anfara has had the opportunity to work closely with Richard Lipka, the founding father of MLER SIG, through publications and articles over the years. For Dr. Anfara, having professional colleagues recognize the work he has done and acknowledge his dedication to middle grades research is a great honor, and he offers this piece of advice for young scholars looking to make significant and positive contributions to the area of adolescent research:

"You really need to create a niche, or a place for oneself to focus in research and professional service in order to become an expert. Middle grades have been scrutinized at the national level, and there is a strong need for quality research in that area. It is important that middle grades researchers come up

through the ranks, and show that what we know to be appropriate practices for middle grades students and young adolescents, do in fact work. While it is important for a new batch of researchers to emerge, it is equally important for those researchers to keep in mind the need for national, and longitudinal research to be done in order to emphasize the need for the middle grades pipeline for students moving into high school. After all, the world might not care about what happens in Knoxville, Tennessee, or Buffalo, New York, the world and most particularly policy makers are most interested in conclusive findings that will contribute to an effort to improve education nationwide."

Attention Graduate Students

As part of our leadership development and outreach, *The Chronicle of Middle Level Education* invites graduate students to submit research to the editor for potential publication in a future issue of the Chronicle. Graduate students must submit their work through the sponsorship of a member of the MLER SIG. All work should be submitted electronically to the Chronicle editor in Word or PDF format, using APA (6th) format. Be sure to include the sponsor's name and affiliation, along with the author's name, affiliation and contact information. The manuscript will undergo a review process to determine potential for publication. This is an opportunity for graduate students to share their work as well as a prospective publication.

For questions or to submit a manuscript, contact **Pam Angelle** at pangelle@utk.edu

**The Chronicle of Middle Level Education
Research**



**Association for Middle Level Education
39th Annual Meeting
Portland, Oregon
November 8-10, 2012
Middle Level Education Research SIG Sessions**

MLER SIG Members Presenting at 2012 AMLE

Tariq Akmal

"A Middle School in the Wheat Fields: What Matters Are the Kids"

Nov. 8, 2012

2:00PM-3:15PM

Gayle Andrews

"Growing Globally Competent Young Adolescents: What, When, Why, Where and How?"

Nov. 8, 2012

9:45AM-11:00AM

"Bringing Curriculum to Life through Service Learning"

Nov. 8, 2012

2:00PM-3:15PM

"What Research says about Research to Guide Practice in Middle Grades Education"

Nov. 8, 2012

3:45PM-5:00PM

Penny Bishop

"Spotlight on Research"

Nov. 8, 2012

8:00AM-9:15AM

"Pathways to Publication"

Nov. 9, 2012

10:00AM-11:15AM

Joyce Brigman

"Engaging Masters Candidates in Quality Preparation through Contemporary Online Med and MAT Degrees"

Nov. 9, 2012

2:00PM-3:15PM

Dave Brown

"Involving Students in Formative Self-Assessment"

Nov. 9, 2012

2:00PM-3:15PM

Robert Capraro

"Pathways to Publication"

Nov. 9, 2012

10:00AM-11:15AM

Jan Carpenter

"Strengthening Teacher Preparation through University School Partnerships"

Nov. 8, 2012

2:00PM-3:15PM

"Holistic Teaching and Learning: Back to the Heart of Education"

Nov. 9, 2012

3:45PM-5:00PM

Micki Caskey

"Spotlight on Research"

Nov. 8, 2012

8:00AM-9:15AM

"Pathways to Publication"

Nov. 9, 2012

10:00AM-11:15AM

What Research Says about Common Planning Time; Findings from a National Study"

Nov. 8, 2012

2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

"Holistic Teaching and Learning: Back to the Heart of Education"

Nov. 9, 2012

3:45PM-5:00PM

Chris Cook

"Maximizing Common Planning Time: Strategies for Implementation"

Nov. 8, 2012

8:00AM-9:15AM



**Association for Middle Level Education
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"Principals' Perceptions of Effective Middle Level Teachers and Preparedness of Newly Hired Teachers"
Nov. 8, 2012
9:45AM-11:00AM

Kezia Curry
"Healthy Teachers Teaching Healthy Kids!"
Nov. 9, 2012
2:00PM-3:15PM

Paul Deering
"Math, Science and Web-based Activities to Raise Awareness about Nutrition and Obesity"
Nov. 8, 2012
2:00PM-3:15PM

"Healthy Teachers Teaching Healthy Kids!"
Nov. 9, 2012
2:00PM-3:15PM

Robin Dever
"Using Pop Culture to Teach Literature"
Nov. 9, 2012
2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Michael DiCicco
"What Can We Do?: Teacher Practices that Support the Middle-to-high-school Transition"
Nov. 9, 2012
10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Kristina Doubet
"Managing A Differentiated Classroom - How to Control the Chaos"
Nov. 9, 2012
2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

"Using Active Reading Strategies to Engage and Equip Reluctant Readers"
Nov. 9, 2012
3:45 PM - 5:00 PM

Cheryl Ellerbrock
"What Can We Do?: Teacher Practices that Support the Middle-to-high-school Transition"
Nov. 9, 2012
10:00 AM - 11:15 AM
"Supporting Young Adolescent's Motivation: The Role of Responsive Relationships and Classroom Instruction"
Nov. 9, 2012
12:15 PM - 1:30 PM

Shawn Faulkner
"Maximizing Common Planning Time: Strategies for Implementation"
Nov. 8, 2012
8:00 AM - 9:15 AM

"Principals' Perceptions of Effective Middle Level Teachers and Preparedness of Newly Hired Teachers"
Nov. 8, 2012
9:45 AM - 11:00 AM

Nancy Flowers
"Emerging Lessons in Turning Around Low-Performing Schools"
Nov. 10, 2012
8:00 AM - 9:15 AM

Melane Greene
"Engaging Masters Candidates in Quality Preparation through Contemporary Online Med and MAT Degrees"
Nov. 9, 2012
2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Penny Howell
"Principals' Perceptions of Effective Middle Level Teachers and Preparedness of Newly Hired Teachers"
Nov. 8, 2012
9:45 AM - 11:00 AM

"Strengthening Teacher Preparation through University/School Partnerships"
Nov. 8, 2012
2:00 PM - 3:15 PM



**Association for Middle Level Education
39th Annual Meeting
Portland, Oregon
November 8-10, 2012
Middle Level Education Research SIG Sessions**

Ellis Hurd

"Improving Middle Level Teacher Preparation: Comparing Candidates in Professional Development School and Traditional Teacher Preparation Models"

Nov. 9, 2012

10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Sarah Kiefer

"Supporting Young Adolescent's Motivation: The Role of Responsive Relationships and Classroom Instruction"

Nov. 9, 2012

12:15 PM - 1:30 PM

Bridget Mahoney

"What Can We Do?: Teacher Practices that Support the Middle-to-high-school Transition"

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10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Steven Mertens

"What Research Says about Common Planning Time; Findings from a National Study"

Nov. 8, 2012

2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

"Improving Middle Level Teacher Preparation: Comparing Candidates in Professional Development School and Traditional Teacher Preparation Models"

Nov. 9, 2012

10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

Nicole Miller

"Using Technology to Boost Your Professional Learning and Social Support Networks"

Nov. 10, 2012

9:45 AM - 11:00 AM

Nancy Mizelle

"Classroom Management: Theory & Practice & Theory Again"

Nov. 8, 2012

2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

John Niska

"Developing a Four-part Cycle to Implement and Sustain a Successful Advisory Program"

Nov. 8, 2012

2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Mary Roe

"Spotlight on Research"

Nov. 8, 2012

8:00 AM - 9:15 AM

"Pathways to Publication"

Nov. 9, 2012

10:00 AM - 11:15 AM

"Research in Support of Middle Grades Education"

Nov. 9, 2012

2:00 PM - 3:15 PM

Call for Reviewers!

If you are interested in reviewing manuscripts for Volume 10 in the *Handbook of Research in Middle Level Education: Research on Teaching and Learning with the Literacies of Young Adolescents*, please contact:

Kathleen F. Malu at: maluk@wpunj.edu

Mary Beth Schaefer at schaeferml@stjohns.edu

The Chronicle of Middle Level Education Research, the online publication of the Middle Level Education Research SIG, is seeking submissions. The MLER SIG publishes the Chronicle three times a year in spring, summer, and fall. We invite you to submit book reviews, brief articles of scholarly work, (including original research and reviews of literature), descriptions of research, or other events/information of interest to MLER SIG members. If you wish to submit items of interest, contact Pam Angelle at pangelle@utk.edu



Call for Manuscripts

Research on Teaching and Learning with the Literacies of Young Adolescents

Edited by **Kathleen F. Malu** and **Mary Beth Schaefer**

Volume 10 in the Handbook of Research in Middle Level Education

Series Editor Vincent A. Anfara, Jr.

Research on middle level education (ACT, 2008; Harvard University, 2011; Johns Hopkins University, 2010) documents that students' learning experiences at the middle level have a deep and abiding influence on their post-secondary opportunities and career paths. As research continues to highlight the urgency of engaging middle level students in academic learning, it is increasingly clear that these students' multiple literacies must become a part of teaching and learning. Understanding how to infuse the literacies of middle level students across classroom activities is a critical part of improving student achievement.

The goal for this volume in *The Handbook* series is to share literacy research from multiple contexts in order to deepen our understanding of the literacies that middle level students use in and out of school. It will include research that identifies how to best teach and learn with our increasingly diverse students. The perspectives that emerge from this volume will help us examine the current state of new and evolving literacies and construct a cutting edge research agenda for middle level literacy education.

General Outline: Manuscripts considered for this volume must be research studies that focus on literacy issues at the middle level (grades 5-8, ages 10-15). Examples of potential research topics may include but are not limited to: digital literacies (e.g., social networking media and games), literacy and English Language Learners, literacy for students with Individual Education Plans, high stakes literacy tests and middle level learners, and literacy teaching and learning in middle level teacher education programs. A wide range of research methods and modes are welcomed. We will consider any well designed study, including case studies, teacher research, narrative inquiry, survey research, classroom studies and action research.

Format: Each manuscript should follow the reporting conventions of its particular inquiry method and must also conform to the following general framework. The manuscript must begin with an abstract of the study (100-150 words) followed by an overview/ introduction, literature review, research design (including an explanation of the research methods, setting and participants), research findings, recommendations, conclusion, and author(s) reflection. The reflection is a personal piece (one-two paragraphs) that examines the study's impact on the author's understandings and beliefs about middle level literacy.

Submission Guidelines: Manuscripts should not exceed 30 pages, including references, and must follow APA Guidelines (6th edition). A separate cover page will include the author's name, professional title, institutional affiliation, and all contact information (phone, fax, mailing address, email). Do not insert headers or footers into the manuscript. Number pages in the upper right hand corner. Tables and figures must be placed at the rear of the manuscript with notations where they should be placed in the body of the manuscript. Manuscripts must be submitted electronically to Kathleen F. Malu. Submission of a manuscript implies commitment to publish in this handbook series. Authors must not simultaneously submit their manuscript to another publication outlet.

Deadline: Complete manuscripts, including a 100-150 word abstract, are due **on or before January 15, 2013**. Manuscripts that meet the guidelines and goals for this volume will be submitted to the editorial review board for blind review. In all correspondence put **Volume 10 Handbook** in the Subject Box.

Inquiries: All questions should be directed to Kathleen F. Malu at maluk@wpunj.edu or Mary Beth Schaefer at schaeferm1@stjohns.edu with **Volume 10 Handbook Question** in the Subject Box. Authors whose manuscripts are accepted for publication must be active members of the Research in Middle Level Education SIG of AERA.

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