

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
- John H. Lounsbury Award
- MLER-SIG Business Meeting Minutes

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I hope you are all enjoying a happy and healthy start to 2013. Over the course of the past year the Middle Level Education Research SIG was very productive in its mission to improve, promote, and disseminate educational research on early adolescence and middle level education.

At the recent Association for Middle Level Education conference in Portland, OR, the SIG had a very strong presence. Many of our SIG members presented their work and we enjoyed a strong turnout for our SIG business meeting (53 attendees). The minutes of that meeting are featured on page 4 of this issue of *The Chronicle*. As you will see from the AMLE business meeting notes, our officers, council members, and working groups have been very productive, focusing on expanding SIG awards and recognition, growing our leadership opportunities, and continuing an impressive publication agenda, among other tasks.

A special thanks to our

Program Chair, Chris Cook, who has put together a very comprehensive program of MLER SIG sessions for AERA's annual meeting coming up on April 27 – May 1 in San Francisco. Chris has done an outstanding job assembling the review panel, managing the entire review process, and developing the program, which includes two paper sessions, three roundtables, one symposium, and our regular business meeting. Thanks are also due to the many reviewers who spent time thoughtfully critiquing proposals, the individuals who submitted their work for consideration, and those who offered to serve as chairs and discussants. A listing of all sessions for this year's meeting can be found on page 8.

In an effort to ensure that the SIG continues to meet the needs of its membership, we will be asking for input from you about your experiences with the SIG. David Strahan,



Steve Mertens

Illinois State University

SIG Executive Advisor, and I will be putting together a brief online survey to solicit input from SIG members about ways that we can continue to serve our members. The results from the survey will be presented during our business meeting at AERA in April and will be used to create a strategic plan for future work.

The SIG election will be coming up this spring. This year, SIG members will be asked to vote for three new
(Continued on page 7)

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

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 schaefer1@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

MLER SIG Officers

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Micki M. Caskey, Webmaster
Portland State University
caskeym@pdx.edu

SIG Association Council Members

Karen Bostic (2012-2014)
University of Nebraska at Kearney

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

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:

Pam Angelle, Ph.D.

pangelle@utk.edu

David Lomascolo

dlomasco@utk.edu

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.

MLER SIG

Graduate Student Mentoring Initiative

In an effort to foster positive mentorships informally and conveniently, the **Middle Level Education Research Special Interest Group** (MLER SIG) is pleased to offer a hybrid Graduate Student Mentoring Initiative (GSMI) mentorship program. The intent of this program is to connect graduate students in middle level education with experienced middle level teacher educators without the demand of having to be in the same physical location (e.g., university, conference). Mentors and mentees are matched according to similarities in teaching, research, and/or service interests.

As of spring 2013, there are 13 mentor-mentee pairings. We are in need of graduate-level mentees who have an interest in middle level education and additional mentors to add to our pool of exemplary mentors. Getting involved is very simple. Mentors need to complete a short questionnaire to aid the pairing process: <http://learnbydesign.net/MLER/index.php?sid=87275&lang=en>

Mentees also need to complete a questionnaire:

<http://learnbydesign.net/MLER/index.php?sid=92585&lang=en>

Once assigned, mentor and mentee will be encouraged to connect via technology (e.g., Skype, email, gchat) and in-person at middle level events/conferences, if both parties are in attendance.

In fall 2012, a short survey was administered to all mentors and mentees. Five mentees and five mentors replied. Feedback was overall positive with suggestions for continual improvement. We are currently in the process of using the feedback to improve the process for all those involved. Please contact Bridget Mahoney or Cheryl Ellerbrock if you are interested in contributing to this initiative either as a mentor, mentee, or GSMI committee member.

Bridget Mahoney
MLER SIG Graduate
Student Representative
Mentoring Initiative
Co-Lead
University of South
Florida
bmmahone@mail.usf.edu

Cheryl Ellerbrock,
Ph.D.
MLER SIG Member
Mentoring Initiative
Co-Lead
University of South
Florida
ellerbro@usf.edu



MLER SIG Business Meeting
November 9, 2012, 5:45-6:45 pm
AMLE Conference

Attendance—53

MINUTES

Welcome and Introductions

- Steve Mertens opened the meeting and welcomed everyone

Executive Advisor's Report

- Dave Strahn provided the executive advisors report to the membership.
- Dave and Steve will work on a survey to be e-mailed to the membership to get feedback on the needs and interests of the SIG members. This feedback will be used to help guide the work of the SIG.

Treasurer's Report

- Shawn Faulkner provided the treasurer's report in Kenneth Anderson's absence. (Full report on page 6)
- The ending balance does not include an additional \$400 which has not been posted to the account yet. (Itemized Expenditure Report on page 6)
- Shawn announced the officer's decision to change the recognition for outgoing officers and council members from plaques to certificates/letters for promotion and tenure to reduce the expenditures of the SIG.

Program Chair Report

- Chris Cook provided a summary of the program for the 2013 annual meeting of AERA in San Francisco, CA. Full details of papers and authors will be published in this issue of the Chronicle ([see page 8](#)).

Submission Summary

- 41 proposal submissions
- 1 symposia submission
- 22 papers accepted
- 52% acceptance rate

Program Summary

- 2 paper sessions
- 3 roundtable sessions
- 1 symposium
- 1 business meeting

A special thanks to the Proposal Reviewers!

- * 25 SIG members volunteered to review proposals
- * 18 accepted the formal invite (See below)
- * Each proposal submission received a minimum of 3 reviews. Most received a 4th review by a graduate student reviewer (Grad student scores do not factor into the final score but the feedback does go back to the authors).

Formal Invites:

Pam Angelle
 Kathleen Brinegar
 Micki Caskey
 Jennifer Denmon (graduate student)
 Francine Falk-Ross
 Lisa Harrison
 Kim Hartman
 Hillary Hughes-Decatur
 Bridget Mahoney (graduate student)
 Cynthia Reyes
 Mary Roe
 Linda Samek
 Frances Spielhagen
 Nicole Thompson
 Keith Tilford

SIG Working Groups

Chris Cook passed around sign-up sheets for each working group. Members were encouraged to volunteer to assist at least one working group for the SIG. Chairs of each working group will contact volunteers with various tasks related to the work of the committee.

- Leadership Development
 - Elections and Nominations for Office
 - Steve Mertens informed the members that we are in the process of putting together a ballot box for our next round of elections. The SIG needs to elect three new Council Members for the April meeting in San Francisco. Members were encouraged to consider nominating someone or self-nominating for the positions. (*Continued on page 5*)



MLER SIG Business Meeting
November 9, 2012, 5:45-6:45 pm
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MINUTES *(Continued from page 4)*

- Steve must submit the names to AERA by November 15, 2012.

- Graduate Student Mentoring Initiative (Cheryl Ellerbrock)

- Cheryl Ellerbrock gave an update on the Graduate Student Mentoring initiative. There are currently 13 active pairs of mentors and mentees.

- Bridget Mahoney (current graduate student), announced the ideas for expanding the program and asked for feedback on ways to improve the experience for both the mentor and the mentee.

Awards and Recognition

- Shawn Faulkner provided an update about the various awards given by the SIG.

- Status of SIG awards

Graduate Student Award—recognizes outstanding research in middle level education by a graduate student. Nominations due January 15, 2012. The recipient will be recognized at AERA 2013, San Francisco. Students must have graduated between July 1st of 2011 and December 31, 2012. Topics must be relevant to middle level education. The student must be sponsored /nominated by a MLER SIG member.

Lipka Lifetime Achievement Award—recognizes an individual who has made significant contributions to middle level education over the course of their career. Nominations are due January 1, 2012. The recipient will be recognized at AERA 2013, San Francisco.

Research Award—The criteria and selection process will be presented to the membership at AERA 2013 for consideration. With approval from the membership the first Research Award will be presented at the 2014 AERA meeting.

Outreach (Kathleen Brinegar and Lisa Harrison: Co-Chairs)

- Membership Numbers (175 as of 10/1/2012)

- Recruitment Efforts

- Facebook Site

Publications

- Chronicle (Pam Angelle) - Newsletter Editor

- Micki Caskey provided details about the submission process for the Chronicle.

- Anyone with calls for manuscripts should forward those to Pam Angelle. They will be included in the newsletter.

- SIG members can send research summaries to be included in the newsletter. Details for authors are included on the MLER SIG website.

- Graduate students are invited to submit their work through a MLER SIG member as a sponsor. These publications will be peer reviewed. Anyone interested in this should contact Pam Angelle. Please see the MLER SIG website for additional details.

- MGRJ (Frances Spielhagen & Robert Capraro)

- Frances Spielhagen encouraged members to submit articles for review for *MGRJ*. MGRJ is now published by Information Age Press. It was announced that SIG members can now get a subscription to the journal for \$40 instead of \$80.

- Robert Capraro announced the creation of Graduate Student Advisory Board for the *Middle Grades Research Journal*. The editors will take nominations for Graduate Student Advisory Board from MLER SIG members. Sponsoring members will be co-reviewers with graduate students accepted onto the Graduate Student Advisory Board.

Updates and Announcements

- Common Planning Time Project

- Phases I and II are complete

- Handbook featuring research from CPT is now available.

- Status of SIG bylaws

- The SIG Bylaws were approved by AERA

- Please see the MLER SIG website for current position and publication announcements.

(Continued on page 6)



MLER SIG Business Meeting
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Attendance—53

MINUTES *(Continued from page 5)*

Treasure's Report

Beginning Balance:	\$6,058.83												
Revenue:	\$930.00												
Expenses:	\$2,462.23												
Ending Balance:	\$4,526.60												
	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec	
Membership Dues	\$300.00	\$200.00	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$75.00	\$80.00	\$10.00	\$165.00				\$930.00
Donations													\$0.00
CPT Project, Phase II													\$0.00
Licenses/Fees													\$0.00
Copier/Duplication													\$0.00
Awards				\$1,442.23									\$1,442.23
Office Supplies													\$0.00
Postage/Mailing				\$45.00									\$45.00
Nat'l Forum Dues													\$0.00
Pubs/Printing													\$0.00
Receptions/Events													
Misc						\$750.00		\$225.00					\$975.00
REVENUE	\$300.00	\$200.00	\$50.00	\$25.00	\$25.00	\$75.00	\$80.00	\$10.00	\$165.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$930.00
EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$1,487.23	\$0.00	\$750.00	\$0.00	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$2,462.23
BALANCE - Month	\$6,358.83	\$6,558.83	\$6,608.83	\$5,146.60	\$5,171.60	\$4,496.60	\$4,576.60	\$4,361.60	\$4,526.60	\$4,526.60	\$4,526.60	\$4,526.60	\$4,526.60
<p align="center"><i>Jointly Prepared by Shawn Faulkner, SIG Treasurer, July 1, 2012</i> <i>Jointly Prepared by Kenneth Alonzo Anderson, SIG Treasurer, Aug 1, 2012</i></p>													

MLER SIG FY 2012 Itemized Expenditure Report		
Month	Purpose	Amount
December 2011	(UIL- CPTII reimbursement (CPRD)	\$750.00
April	All Star Awards	\$642.23
	Honorarium – V. Anfara, Jr.	\$500.00
	Honorarium – H. Hughes-Decatur	\$250.00
	Reimbursement – P. Bishop (gift cards)	\$50.00
	Reimbursement – M. Mee (postage)	\$45.00
August	SIG Management Fee 7/12-6/13	\$225.00
	Total Expenses	\$2,462.23
To be encumbered	Reimbursement – S. Mertens (ribbons)	\$127.50

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

Council members. AERA's election regulations require that we have two candidates for each election position. Our SIG was fortunate to have nine candidates step forward for the election. I am very appreciative to these fine candidates for their willingness to serve on the SIG's Council.

The SIG's Graduate Student Mentoring Initiative continues to link graduate students with veteran SIG members. Cheryl Ellerbrock and Bridget Mahoney reported during the AMLE business meeting that we currently have 13 active pairs of mentors and mentees. Many thanks to our SIG members for providing their time and guidance to help our future colleagues. If you are interested in serving as a mentor, please contact

Cheryl Ellerbrock at Ellerbro@usf.edu.

I want to make you aware of a new and unique opportunity to SIG members. The *Middle Grades Research Journal* is a peer-review print journal published by Information Age Publishing and currently edited by SIG members, Fran Spielhagen, Robert Capraro, and Mary Margaret Capraro. IAP has offered a special subscription rate to SIG members of \$40 per year. Your subscription will include three regular issues per year and a special annual issue. To subscribe, simply call IAP at (704) 752-9125 and ask for Customer Service. Be sure to indicate that you are a SIG member.

Lastly, please join me in thanking Pam Angelle and her colleagues at the University of Tennessee for putting together another great issue of *The Chronicle*.

I look forward to the upcoming year and 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 everyone in San Francisco in April for the annual AERA meetings.

Best wishes,

Steve

Good News at the University of Hawai'i

Paul D. Deering, University of Hawai'i

The M.Ed. in Curriculum Studies with a Middle and Secondary Level Emphasis Program (MSLMED) at the University in Hawai'i at Manoa has lots of good news. MLER members Deborah Zuercher, Kezia Curry, Katie Martin and Chair Paul Deering collaborate middle-school-style with Auntie Sheila Apisa and graduates in running the program. We recently learned of a "hat trick" of awards by our graduates.

Karen Kutsunai, teacher at Kailua Intermediate School, was named the *Hawai'i State Teacher of the Year* and *Windward District Teacher of the Year*. Aaron

Loque, teacher at Maui Waena Intermediate School, was named the *Maui District Teacher of the Year*. Iosea Afu Muasau was named *American Samoa Territorial Teacher of the Year*. Margot Adair, teacher at Maryknoll Middle School was named *Hawai'i Association of Middle Schools (HAMS) C.W. Stevens Middle Level Educator of the Year*.

The MSLMED Program has been in operation since 1996, helping participants to revolutionize their classrooms and schools, and take on leadership roles. Over 20 HAMS board members, 10 presidents, and

eight educators of the year have emerged from the program. MSLMED casts a wide net, working with education professionals across the entire span of adolescence – ages 10-18, grades 4-12. Originally an in-person program, MSLMED has been offered online for the past three years, allowing participants to log on together across the Pacific. Over 300 educational leaders have graduated to date. The next online cohort runs from May 2014 to August 2016. Interested persons should contact Paul Deering (deering@hawaii.edu). Aloha!

UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII
MĀNOA



2013 AERA Annual Meeting MLER SIG Sessions San Francisco, California

The Middle Level Education Research SIG is excited about the upcoming program for the 2013 American Educational Research Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco, California. The SIG received 42 proposal submissions and 1 symposium submission. Twenty-two papers were accepted for a 52% acceptance rate. The MLER SIG portion of the 2013 program consists of two paper sessions, three roundtable sessions, one symposium, and a business meeting. Current details of the sessions are below. Additional information should be available in February.

Paper Session: Assessment in Middle Level Schools

Chair: Virginia Jagla

Identifying Successful

Alternative Middle

Schools: An Alternative

Accountability Approach

[MacGregor & Brand]

Linking Poverty, Engagement

and Achievement Across

the Middle School Years

[Frontier & Bronson]

Predictive Validity of CBM

measures of ORF and

Reading Comprehension

on High-stakes Reading

Assessments [Park, Baker,

& Biancarosa]

Validation and Revision of a

Middle School

Improvement Assessment

[Jones, Oner, & Capraro]

Middle School Size and

Hispanic Student

Achievement [Riha, Slate,

& Martinez-Garcia]

Discussant: Donald Hackmann

Paper Session: Curriculum Issues in Middle Level Schools

Chair: Heather Rogers-Haverback

A Praxis of Participatory

Action Research:

Collaboratively Creating

21st Century Learning

Opportunities [Downes,

Swallow, Hennessey, &

Bishop]

Exploring the Development of

Challenging Curricula:

Teachers and Students

Perspectives on Efforts to

Nurture Deep Thinking

[Strahan, Melville, & Hedt]

Middle School Students

Perspectives on Strategic

Revision Instruction in a

Writing Workshop

Classroom [Dinkins]

Meeting the Literacy Needs of

African American Adolescent

Males [Smith]

Middle School Inclusion: Case

Studies of Three General

Education Teachers

[Mackey]

Discussant: Mary Roe

Roundtable: Concerns and Issues in Young Adolescent Development

Chair: Frances Spielhagen

School Connectedness and

Perceived School Safety:

Visual Narratives from

Students in Middle School

[Biag]

The Middle School Transition

and "Getting in Trouble." A

Cross Case Analysis of

Persistently Disciplined

Urban Students [Kennedy-

Lewis]

Exploring Protective Factors in

School and Home Contexts

for Economically

Disadvantaged Students in

Middle School [Okilwa]

Self-Efficacy for Math for

Historically Low-

Performing Students at a

High-Poverty School

[Emmett, Hall, McKenna]

Roundtable: Current Issues in Middle Level Education

Chair: Mickey Fenzel

Seventh Graders Perspective: A

Case Study of Three

Advisories [Niska]

MLER SIG National Common

Planning Project: National

Findings and Implications

[Anfara, Mertens, Caskey,

& Flowers]

Schools to Watch-Taking

Center Stage: A Program

Description and Perceptions

from Participating

Principals [Arellanes &

Gonzalkez]

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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 proposals. All MLER SIG members are encouraged to attend the SIG business meeting. Check the AERA program for details. 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.

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



MLER SIG Sessions

(Continued from page 8)

Putting Professionalism Back Into Teaching: Mid-level Pre-service and In-service Teachers Engaging in Interdisciplinary Teaming
[Frambaugh-Kritzer & Stolle]

- *Middle Level Principals' Perceptions of the Preparedness of New Middle Level Teachers*
[Howell, Faulkner, & Cook]

Roundtable: Teacher Preparation and Leadership at the Middle Level

Chair: Charlene Johnson

- *A Case of Middle Grades Leadership in a Conversion Charter School* [Bickmore & Dowell]
- *Multi-User Virtual Environments for Middle Level Teacher Preparation* [Miller, Xu, Xie, Thompson, Franz, & Hare]
- *Comparison of Teacher Preparation Models and Implications for Teacher Attrition: Evidence from 14-year Longitudinal Study* [Mertens, Latham, & Hamann]

Symposium: Teaching and Learning with the Literacies of Middle Grades Students in the 21st Century

Chair: Mary Beth Schaefer & Penny Bishop

Digital Silence: Creating a Safe Space for Two Middle Grades Girls' Exploration of Literacy
This I Believe: Digital Stories of Middle Grades English Language Learners (ELLs)
Literacy Teachers' Approaches in the 21st century: For Learners or for Methods?
Knowing Technology is One Thing, Using it Effectively Is Something Else!

The John H. Lounsbury Award for Distinguished Service

The John H. Lounsbury Award for Distinguished Service is the highest award given by the Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE). This award is given only when an individual has demonstrated a level of service, integrity, and leadership in middle level education that warrants this special recognition. As a result, this award is not necessarily presented annually.

Selection procedures include a committee review of received nominations and materials. If a recommendation results from committee deliberations, it is submitted to the Board of Trustees for a final decision.

Viable candidates for this award have: made a global impact on middle level education, a minimum of ten years of actively demonstrated, distinguished service and a reputation as a national and global education leader, demonstrated scholarship of the highest level in professional writing and research, maintained dedicated service to middle level education beyond the local, state, or regional level, and should be known as a person of high personal ethics, reflecting a model of exemplary behavior and reputation associated with the spirit of the award.

This year, AMLE has selected **Dr. Micki Caskey** as the recipient of the John H. Lounsbury Award for her distinguished service in the field of middle grades education research.

Information about the award can be found at <http://www.amle.org/AboutAMLE/Awards/JohnHLounsburyAward/tabid/382/Default.aspx>

Dr. Micki M. Caskey
Professor, Middle Grades Education
Portland State University Graduate School of Education

This year, the Association for Middle Level Education has presented Dr. Micki M. Caskey of Portland State University with the John H. Lounsbury Award for Distinguished Service. The Lounsbury Award for Distinguished Service is the highest honor that can be awarded by the AMLE. The award is given only when an individual has maintained dedicated service to middle level education, and has made a global impact on the field through their research, exemplary behavior, and reputation.

Prior to her career at Portland State University as a professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction, Dr. Caskey began her

lifetime path in middle grades education as a middle school science teacher for four years, teaching students with learning disabilities for 11 years, and then, working as a curriculum integration specialist to collaborate with teachers to integrate curriculum and infuse technology in their teaching. While teaching in Florida, Dr. Caskey had the opportunity to make her first presentation at the National Middle School Association conference in 1992. It was there, she says, that a turning point in her life occurred: "It was so rewarding to share ideas at a national conference that I was hooked. To walk into a room and share my ideas with 100 people that were interested in how to motivate young people was very humbling." Subsequently, she



completed a Ph.D in curriculum and instruction with an emphasis on interdisciplinary education at the University of South Florida. Since receiving her doctorate in 1997, Dr. Caskey has given more than 100 presentations around the
(Continued on page 11)

Dr. Micki Caskey—John H. Lounsbury Award Winner

(Continued from page 10)

country and the world. Additionally, Dr. Caskey has authored and collaborated in over 50 publications, including books, articles, chapters, and electronic publications in middle grades education research.

Dr. Caskey pointed out that through her research and accomplishments, she is most proud of her opportunity to work and collaborate with other middle grades teachers and researchers. Such opportunities eventually led to her presentation of the William Alexander Memorial Lecture in front of fellow middle grades educators. She noted,

“because William Alexander is considered the father of middle grades education, giving the lecture in his honor was very special.”

For Dr. Caskey, teaching middle grades youth—young adolescents—was easy due to their willingness to explore and their openness to learning. Her passion for research in the field stems from her strong belief that young adolescents are thoughtful, caring, and passionate people who need somebody to believe in them. She offers the following advice for those who share her affinity for middle grades education:

“As a society, we need to pay particular attention to young adolescents. We cannot afford to forget the middle. Our challenge is to support and guide this unique age group; youth who are going through remarkable physiological, psychological, cognitive, and socio-emotional change. We need to collaborate with one another to deepen what we know about middle grades education. Together, we can advance the education and life experiences of young adolescents.”

Special Thanks to AERA Proposal Reviewers!

Pam Angelle
Kathleen Brinegar
Micki Caskey
Jennifer Denmon
(graduate student)
Francine Falk-Ross

Francine Falk-Ross
Lisa Harrison
Kim Hartman
Hillary Hughes-Decatur
Bridget Mahoney
(graduate student)

Cynthia Reyes
Mary Roe
Linda Samek
Frances Spielhagen
Nicole Thompson
Keith Tilford

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.



New Book Information

Common Planning Time in Middle Level Schools: Research Studies from the MLER SIG's National Project

Edited by **Steven B. Mertens**, *Illinois State University*; **Vincent A. Anfara, Jr.**, *The University of Tennessee*; **Micki M. Caskey**, *Portland State University* and **Nancy Flowers**, *CPRD/University of Illinois*

A volume in *The Handbook of Research in Middle Level Education* series
 Series Editor: **Vincent A. Anfara**, *The University of Tennessee*
 (Sponsored by the Middle Level Education Research Special Interest Group)

This volume, the ninth volume in the Handbook of Research in Middle Level Education, is a compilation of research studies focusing on the use and implementation of common planning time (CPT) in middle level schools. All of the studies were part of the Middle Level Education Research SIG's National Middle Grades Research Project (NMGRP) on Common Planning Time, which provides additional evidence about teachers' understandings, experiences, the benefits and barriers about CPT.

Since all researchers participating in the SIG-sponsored project utilized the same data collection protocols and followed the same protocols, the overall data collection was systematic and is highly reliable. Five research questions were generated to guide the development of the data collection protocols. While the authors were encouraged to use their data to address these project-level questions, they were not required to do so. The project consisted of both qualitative and quantitative data collection. Phase I (qualitative) consisted of observations of CPT meetings and structured interviews with teachers. Phase II (quantitative) was comprised of an online teacher survey. Within the chapters of this volume, a variety of relevant and meaningful research questions are examined utilizing both qualitative and quantitative methodologies.

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Publication Date: 2013

ISBNs:

Paperback: 9781623961022

Hardcover: 9781623961039

E-Book: 9781623961046

Price:

Paperback: \$45.99

Hardcover: \$85.99

Trim Size: 6.125 X 9.25

Page Count: 374

Subject: Education, Middle Grades

BISAC Codes:

EDU000000

EDU037000

EDU 015000

SIG Members Special Paperback Price: \$30.00 plus shipping

Also Available: The Encyclopedia of Middle Grades Education - (Special Price for Hardcover \$50.00 plus s/h)

Series URL: <http://infoagepub.com/series/Handbook-of-Research-in-Middle-Level-Education>

IAP - Information Age Publishing, PO Box 79049, Charlotte, NC 28271

tel: 704-752-9125 fax: 704-752-9113 URL: www.infoagepub.com

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List Price: \$45.99 paperbacks plus s/h and \$85.99 hardcover plus s/h
Special Price: \$39.99 paperbacks plus s/h and \$59.99 hardcover plus s/h

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The following outlets specialize in publishing middle grades research and are sponsored by AERA's Middle Level Education Research SIG, Association for Middle Level Education, and the like. While not comprehensive, the list may be useful to middle grades researchers, particularly to those new to the field.

♦ *Chronicle of Middle Level Education Research*

The Chronicle of Middle Level Education Research is the online publication of AERA's Middle Level Education Research SIG. The Chronicle is published three times a year in January, June, and October and includes book reviews, descriptions of research or publications, and other information of interest to MLER SIG members. This electronic publication also features a peer-reviewed section and seeks brief articles of scholarly work including original research and reviews of literature. For additional information, please contact Dr. Pam Angelle, Editor, Chronicle of Middle Level Education Research, at pangelle@utk.edu

♦ *The Handbook of Research in Middle Level Education*

Since 2000 the MLER SIG has sponsored a research handbook that is co-published by Information Age Publishing and the National Middle School Association. As of 2012, nine volumes have been published with each volume focusing on a specific topic like curriculum, instruction, and assessment; the professional preparation of middle grades teachers and administrators; middle school reform; action research; and an international look at education young adolescents. Vincent A. Anfara, Jr. serves as the Series Editor for this publication and calls for manuscripts can be found at the MLER website, <http://www.middlelevel.pdx.edu>

♦ *Research in Middle Level Education Online*

Research in Middle Level Education Online (RMLE Online) is an international peer-reviewed research journal published by the National Middle School Association. The Journal publishes quantitative and qualitative studies, case studies, action research studies, research syntheses, integrative reviews, and interpretations of research literature. NMSA's Research Advisory Board provides editorial guidance and MLER SIG endorses the publication. Dr. Karen Swanson, Editor, can be reached at SWANSON_KW@mercer.edu. See guidelines for contributors: <http://www.amle.org/Publications/RMLEOnline/tabid/426/Default.aspx>

♦ *Middle Grades Research Journal*

Middle Grades Research Journal (MGRJ) is a refereed, peer-reviewed journal published by the Missouri State University Institute for School Improvement. The journal publishes original studies providing both empirical and theoretical frameworks that focus on middle grades education. A variety of articles are published quarterly in March, June, September, and December of each volume year. For more information about the Journal and its submission guidelines, please visit <http://www.infoagepub.com/middle-grades-research-journal.html>. Inquiries may be directed to Dr. Frances R. Spielhagen, Editor, at mgrj@infoagepub.com.

♦ *Association for Middle Level Education (AMLE) Research Summaries*

AMLE Research Summaries are abbreviated reviews of the literature in support of tenets of *This We Believe* (2010). These research summaries are designed to inform middle school practice, research, and policy as well as to provide basic information about the education of young adolescents for parents and community members. See the submission guidelines: <http://www.amle.org/Research/ResearchSummaries/tabid/115/Default.aspx>