

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
- Strategic Planning for MLER SIG
- MLER-SIG Business Meeting Minutes

Inside this issue:	
Message from the Chair	1
New MLER Website	3
Richard "Dick" Lipka Lifetime Achievement Award	4
Update on Strategic Planning for MLER SIG	5
Update from the Program Chair	7
AMLE 2014 Annual Conference Information	10
Graduate Student Mentoring Initiative	12
AERA 2014 MLER SIG Business Meeting Minutes	13

Greetings and welcome to the Summer 2014 edition of the *Chronicle*. As the incoming Chair of the MLER SIG, it is an honor to write my first "Message from the Chair." I can still recall the excitement of attending my first MLER SIG meeting in Montreal in 2005 and it is amazing to me that I now have this leadership opportunity. I remember sitting in awe of the accomplishments and greatness that filled the room that evening and being both intimidated and excited. I knew immediately that I wanted to be a part of this organization and have enjoyed every minute since. Participating in the MLER SIG has been a high point in my professional career and I am grateful for the wonderful mentors who have served before me and provided quality examples for me to follow. I look forward to serving with an amazing group of people committed to quality middle grades research. I am

excited about the possibilities this year brings and, as such, I want to share a few specific informational items with you.

First, the MLER SIG officially approved a new strategic plan at the April business meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania with four primary goals: 1) to provide high quality reports of research to inform practice, 2) maintain and grow our membership, 3) expand opportunities for collaboration and publication, and 4) expand opportunities for leadership. The four goals align nicely with our current work teams and there should be numerous opportunities in the coming months to get involved. Members of the MLER SIG will be sending out a survey to membership in the near future outlining the tasks of the different work groups, capturing member interest in working on those tasks, and then matching members with the



Chris Cook

Northern Kentucky University

specific work groups. I hope you will consider participating on one of the work groups.

Second, the window for submitting proposals for the 2015 Annual Meeting in Chicago, Illinois is now open. It runs from June 2-July 22. I encourage you to submit proposals to the MLER SIG. Our allotment of sessions is partially based on the number of
(Continued on page 2)

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.



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

submissions we receive and it is important that we take advantage of the opportunity to share the quality work being done in middle level education.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing officers and council members. Kathleen Brinegar, Fran Spielhagen, and Bridget Mahoney have finished their terms as Council Members, while Penny Bishop and Kenneth Anderson finished their roles as Immediate Past-Chair and Treasurer, respectively. Their leadership and commitment to the SIG has been instrumental to both the success and livelihood of the SIG and I know they will continue to have a positive influence on the SIG. I also want to welcome several members to their new leadership roles. Steve Mertens will serve as Immediate Past-

Chair, Shawn Faulkner as Program Chair, Penny Howell as Vice-Chair, Lisa Harrison as Treasurer, and Nicole Thompson as Secretary. Dana Franz, Bogum Yoon, Laurie Ramirez, and Jennifer Denmon will be serving as Council members. We are truly fortunate to have tremendous people involved in this organization and I look forward to working with this talented group of colleagues.

I hope everyone has an enjoyable summer and finds some time to relax and enjoy the sunshine. After this past winter, it is what I am looking forward to the most! Hope to see everyone in Nashville, Tennessee at the AMLE Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,
Chris Cook

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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:

Pam Angelle, Ph.D.

pangelle@utk.edu

David Lomascolo

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



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.

INTRODUCING THE NEW MLER WEBSITE

Find us at:
mlersig.net

Nicole Miller, Assistant Professor at Mississippi State University, has graciously agreed to step in as our new webmaster. While our site is currently a 'work in progress', it will soon provide all of the news and information our former site offered to members. Contact Nicole if you have ideas for content or want to offer affirmations on the work she is undertaking. Thanks, Nicole, for taking on this task and spreading the good news about the MLER SIG!



Richard “Dick” Lipka Lifetime Achievement Award

Description of Award: Richard Lipka was the founding father of the Middle Level Education Research Special Interest Group (MLER SIG) and has been a guiding force in this organization since its inception. The Richard “Dick” 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. As a result the award is not necessarily presented annually. The recipient of this award will be recognized with a plaque and a check for \$500.00 presented at the MLER annual business meeting at AERA, and a brief biography and picture of the award winner will be posted on the SIG’s website.

Eligibility Criteria: Viable candidates for this award must have:

- made a significant impact on middle level education
- a minimum of 15 years of actively demonstrated, distinguished service to the field
- a national (and even international) reputation
- demonstrated scholarship of the highest level in professional research and writing
- maintained service to middle level education through local, state, regional, and national organizations

Nomination Process and Timeline: To nominate an individual for the Richard “Dick” Lipka Lifetime Achievement Award, send a letter of nomination to the MLER SIG Vice Chair that addresses each of the eligibility criteria. With the letter, include the nominee’s professional vita and a maximum of five letters of support. These materials must be received no later than **January 1** of each year in order to be considered for recognition at the following MLER annual business meeting. Any MLER SIG member may nominate a candidate for this award. Self-nominations are not appropriate and will not be considered. The nature of this award necessitates that recognition and nominations come from colleagues in the field rather than from self nomination.

2014 Award Winner: Dr. Micki Caskey

Dr. Micki Caskey, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs and Professor in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at Portland State University, was selected as the 2014 recipient of the Lipka Lifetime Achievement Award. A highly respected leader in the field of middle level education, Dr. Caskey is a distinguished scholar, author, mentor and colleague, known for her influential leadership in middle level education, Dr. Caskey is the former chair of the Middle Level Education Research SIG of AERA, a regular presenter at AMLE and AERA on topics of interest to middle level educators and researchers, and her record of scholarship includes nine books, more than 25 articles and book chapters, and the editorship of one of middle level education’s premiere journals *Research in Middle Level Education Online*. In 2013, the Association for Middle Level Education recognized Dr. Caskey with the prestigious John Lounsbury Award.

Please see the fall issue of *The Chronicle of Middle Level Education* for an interview with Dr. Caskey.



An Update on Strategic Planning for our MLER SIG

David Strahan, Executive Advisor

At the MLER SIG meeting at AERA in San Francisco in 2013, an ad hoc committee which included Virginia Jagla, Heather Rogers Haverback, Nicole Miller, David Virtue, and David Strahan, volunteered to begin the process of drafting a strategic plan.

We reviewed three previous reports on strategic planning (2003, 2005, and 2008) and data from surveys of our membership related to our mission and operations. We found that our previous strategic plans focused primarily on three goals: 1) maintaining and growing our membership, 2) creating opportunities for collaboration and publication, and 2) providing high quality reports of research to inform practice. These goals have been in sync with our purpose. As stated in our bylaws, the SIG purpose is: “to improve, promote, and disseminate educational research reflecting early adolescence and middle level education.” Our website states:

The Middle Level Education Research Special Interest Group (MLER SIG), an affiliate of the American Educational Research Association (AERA), represents the largest group of middle grades researchers in the U.S. and beyond. The MLER SIG is an international group of researchers who focus specifically on issues relevant to the education and well-being of young adolescents, youth 10 to 15 years of age.

In February 2013, we sent a survey to the members of the SIG listed in the most current distribution list (257 names). We received responses from 68 members (26%). Results suggested that we have reached “a comfortable place” at AERA and AMLE. Respondents were very positive about the SIG in general. 88% reported that the SIG met their needs.

More than 85% agreed or strongly agreed that the SIG offered opportunities for participation, collaboration, and leadership.

More than 85% agreed that the SIG works effectively, works well with other organizations, contributes to career goals, and invites diversity.

Perceptions of the extent to which the SIG “makes a point of making all members feel welcome” were less positive (72% agreement).

At our MLER SIG meeting at AMLE in Minneapolis in November 2013, we presented an update on the strategic planning process and asked discussion questions related to 1) who we are, 2) what we do, and 3) how we do what we do. Suggestions from participants included:

- We might extend efforts to invite more new members by starting with colleagues in our own institutions, working with state affiliates to encourage members of those affiliates to become involved, exploring ways to link the SIG website to those of other middle level organizations.
- We might increase participation in discussions if we could provide a way to participate from a distance using online tools.

In our conversations that followed the AMLE meeting, we reviewed again the previous reports on strategic planning (2003, 2005, and 2008), data from surveys of our membership, and ideas generated in subsequent discussions. We decided to send a brief follow-up survey in March requesting input on three questions.

(Continued on page 6)

An Update on Strategic Planning for our MLER SIG

David Strahan, Executive Advisor *(Continued from page 5)*

Seventeen SIG members responded to our three open-ended questions. Here is a brief summary of their comments:

How would you like to see the membership of the MLER SIG expand?

**responses (ranked by most common to least)

- More early career professors and doctoral students
- Cross pollination
- Teacher educators, researchers, and teachers
- Individuals from other disciplines or internationally
- Regional conferences

Illustrative comments included:

- I would love to see us reach out to more early career faculty. I think we do a good job supporting graduate students, but not enough work involving and retaining early career people.
- I would like to see more junior faculty and graduate students. People who start with an organization early in their careers may be likely to stay longer, as their membership and participation might influence their research trajectory.
- It needs to grow in both teacher educators and researchers to partner to develop a meaningful research program from which to inform the field and to ensure new middle grades teachers revive the newest knowledge.

Would you like to have more opportunities to get involved in the leadership of the SIG? If so, how might we better offer such opportunities?

Yes- approximately 75%

No- approximately 25%

- There were many ideas on how to get people better involved; however, a few themes stood out:
- Provide more opportunities for new members,
- Broadly define leadership,
- Council members should invite members to help with SIG initiatives.

Are you interested in collaborating with other researchers? If so, what are your research interests? How might the SIG facilitate more collaboration?

Almost all of the participants in the survey answered yes.

Responses were varied.

Teacher preparation was cited a number of times.

Based on the suggestions shared in response to these questions and our continued conversations, we presented the following strategic goals and possible actions for consideration by the Executive Council and the membership attending the SIG meeting in Philadelphia.

An Update on Strategic Planning for our MLER SIG

David Strahan, Executive Advisor *(Continued from page 6)*

Strategic Goals	Actions to consider
1) Provide high quality reports of research to inform practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Continue the Handbook series (consider Teacher Preparation as the next topic) b. Explore opportunities for providing research briefs to share with other middle level organizations
2) Maintain and grow our membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Review who our members are now, how long they have been members, and how active they have been b. Work with other organizations to expand the distribution list c. Improve communication d. Consider possibilities for using online tools to enable participation in sessions and meetings from a distance e. Strengthen efforts to invite international members
3) Expand opportunities for collaboration and publication	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Strengthen our relationships with NAPOLME, AMLE, National Forum, ATE MLE SIG b. Facilitate networking among researchers with similar interests c. Explore ways to link the SIG website with the websites of other middle level organizations.
4) Expand opportunities for leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Develop more formal roles for volunteers to work with members of the Executive Council on SIG initiatives (for example, membership on an "awards committee" with a letter of recognition).

The Executive Council suggested a more explicit goal to address international membership. The Council approved these revised goals and objectives, as did the general membership. These goals and objectives will guide our planning for the next few years. We hope that this open process will encourage members to share their suggestions and concerns with any of us on the Executive Committee as we move forward.

Update from the Program Chair

Shawn Faulkner

I hope everyone had a productive conclusion to the spring semester and are looking forward to some time to relax this summer! I enjoyed seeing many of you at AERA in Philadelphia. As the incoming Program Chair, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank Chris Cook for coordinating a strong program in Philadelphia. The sessions included a number of quality presentations that will continue to advance the work of middle level research and the SIG, and the sessions were all so well-organized. In addition to those who shared their research, the SIG appreciates those who served as reviewers, session chairs, and discussants. Without these volunteers, a high-quality program would not be possible. THANK YOU!

As one annual meeting concludes, it's time to begin thinking about AERA 2015 in Chicago. One of the strengths of our SIG is the number of members who submit proposals and the number of individuals who volunteer to be reviewers. Our session allotment is determined by our SIG membership and the number of submissions we receive, so I encourage all of you to submit proposals to the SIG and ask you to recruit colleagues who are involved in middle level research to submit proposals as well. The Call for Submissions period is open **June 1 – July 22, 2014**, on the AERA website.

Enjoy your summer, and I'll see you at AMLE conference in November.

- Shawn



OUTSTANDING MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION RESEARCH AWARD

Sponsored by Information Age Publishing

DESCRIPTION: The Middle Level Education Research Special Interest Group is comprised of leading middle-level researchers both nationally and internationally. This *Outstanding Middle Level Education Research Award* was established to recognize SIG members who make significant contributions to middle level education research through the publication of an article, book chapter, monograph, book, or book series. The award is given only when a SIG member has made a significant contribution that holds promise in the realm of research as it relates to theory, implications for practice, and/or methodological advances. This award will only be presented when the Awards & Recognition Committee deems that a deserving candidate(s) has been nominated.

ELIGIBILITY: Nominees for this award must have published an article, monograph, book chapter, book, or book series within the five years prior to the award being bestowed. The publication should represent a significant contribution to the field of middle level education research.

NOMINATIONS: Nominations will only be accepted from MLER SIG members in good standing. Self-nominations will not be accepted for this award. To nominate a SIG member for the *Outstanding Middle Level Education Research Award*, submit the following documents for review by the Awards & Recognition Committee:

Nomination form

Copy of the publication under consideration. (For larger works, contact Dr. Penny Howell at penny.howell@louisville.edu for instructions.)

Letter of support written by the nominator that addresses the significance of the publication under consideration to middle level education research

Nominee's professional vita

Send nominations and/or questions to: Dr. Penny Howell at penny.howell@louisville.edu

DEADLINE: All submissions must be received no later than January 1. The recipient of this award will be notified in mid-February.

AWARD & RECOGNITION: The winner of this award will receive either (a) a check for \$150 from Information Age Publishing, or (b) a \$200 book credit from Information Age Publishing. The award winner will also be invited to present his/her research at the SIG's business meeting at either the American Educational Research Association's annual meeting or the Association for Middle Level Education's annual conference. In addition, a photograph and brief biographical statement will appear on the SIG's website.

SPONSORSHIP: The MLER SIG gratefully acknowledges and extends appreciation to Information Age Publishing for sponsoring this award.



MIDDLE LEVEL EDUCATION RESEARCH
SPECIAL INTEREST GROUP

**OUTSTANDING MIDDLE LEVEL
EDUCATION RESEARCH AWARD**

Sponsored by Information Age Publishing

Nomination Form

Nominee:	
Nominee's Address:	
Nominee's Email:	
Nominee's Phone:	
Nominator:	
Nominator's Email:	
Title of Publication:	



Conference Information

(Ctrl+Click Links below for more information)

Location: Gaylord Opryland Resort & Convention Center

- 10 minutes from Nashville International Airport.
- Minutes from the Grand Ole Opry, great shopping, live music and world-famous downtown Nashville.
- Convention Center and conference hotel in the same building.
- 2,881 luxurious guest rooms.
- 15 restaurants.
- Indoor river with boat tours.
- 9 acres of lush gardens.

Travel and Hotels: [Book Your Hotel Online](#)

Registration Rates: [AMLE 2014 REGISTRATION](#)

Thursday, November 6, 2014

Registration	7:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
General Session <i>(Dave Burgess, Nikki Woodson, Cedrick Gray & Kim Campbell)</i>	8:00 a.m.–9:15 a.m.
Concurrent Sessions	8:00 a.m.–9:15 a.m.
	10:30 a.m.–11:45 a.m.
	12:45 p.m.–2:00 p.m.
	2:30 p.m.–3:45 p.m.
	4:15 p.m.–5:30 p.m.
Exhibit Hall	9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.
Dedicated Exhibit Hall Time	9:15 a.m.–10:30 p.m.
	11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.
Quiz Show and Reception	7:30 p.m.–9:30 p.m.

Friday, November 7, 2014

Registration	7:00 a.m.–5:30 p.m.
General Session <i>(Rosalind Wiseman)</i>	8:00 a.m.–9:15 a.m.
Concurrent Sessions	10:30 a.m.–11:45 a.m.
	12:45 p.m.–2:00 p.m.
	2:30 p.m.–3:45 p.m.
	4:15 p.m.–5:30 p.m.
Exhibit Hall	8:45 a.m.–4:15 p.m.
Dedicated Exhibit Hall Time	9:15 a.m.–10:30 a.m.
	11:45 a.m.–12:45 p.m.

Saturday, November 8, 2014

Registration	7:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m.
Concurrent Sessions	8:00 a.m.–9:15 a.m.
	9:45 p.m.–11:00 a.m.
	11:15 a.m.–12:45 p.m.



Publishing Opportunities for Middle Grades Research

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>



Graduate Student Mentoring Initiative (GSMI)

Purpose:

To foster positive relationships between graduate students and middle level teacher educators informally and conveniently without the demand of having to be in the same physical location.

We are in need of mentors to pair with interested graduate students. Please contact Cheryl Ellerbrock for more information ellerbro@usf.edu



MLER SIG Business Meeting
April 3, 2014, 6:15-7:45 pm
AERA Meeting Philadelphia, PA

MINUTES

Welcome & Introductions

Steve was unable to attend the business meeting because of travel difficulties. Chris Cook, incoming SIG Chair, conducted the meeting. Chris welcomed everyone and provided an opportunity for the membership to introduce themselves. 57 people were in attendance.

Shawn Faulkner
 Lenore Kinne
 Bridget Mahoney
 Nicole Miller
 Sarah Pennington
 Cynthia Reyes
 Mary Beth Schaefer
 Frances Spielhagen
 Nicole Thompson
 Amanda Wall
 Stephanie Wormington

Financial Report

Kenneth Anderson provided the financial report for the SIG.

Beginning balance: \$6644.10

Revenue: \$400

Ending balance: \$7044.10

SIG Committee Reports

Leadership Development

Results of Recent Election--Penny Howell provided an update on the recent election.

- Vice Chair: Penny Howell
- Secretary: Nicole Thompson
- Treasurer: Lisa Harrison
- Council: Dana Franz, Laurie Ramirez, & Bogum Yoon
- Grad Student: Jennifer Denmon

Program Chair Report (Chris Cook)

SUBMISSIONS

38 proposal submissions – slight decrease from last year

1 symposia submission

21 papers accepted

About 55% acceptance rate

Graduate Student Mentoring Initiative—Nicole Miller provided an update the GSM Initiative

- 16 pairs of mentors and mentees
- In need of mentors to pair with interested graduate students. Please contact Cheryl Ellerbrock for more information ellerbro@usf.edu

PROGRAM

2 Paper Sessions

3 Roundtable Sessions

1 Symposia

1 Business Meeting

Membership & Outreach (Chairs: Nicole Thompson & Kathleen Brinegar)

- Updates to the website will come. Nicole Miller will be taking over the website from Micki Caskey. Twitter account to come.
- Membership Numbers (148 as of 4/01/14; 111 lapsed) & Recruitment Efforts

(Continued on page 14)

A Special Thanks to the 2014 Program Reviewers

Pam Angelle

Penny Bishop

Kathleen Brinegar

Micki Caskey

Jennifer Denmon

Francine Falk-Ross



MLER SIG Business Meeting
April 3, 2014, 6:15-7:45 pm
AERA Meeting Philadelphia, PA

MINUTES (Continued from page 13)

Awards & Recognition--Chair: Shawn Faulkner provided an update on the awards and thanked the Awards committee. Special thanks to Penny Bishop, Nicole Miller, Kathy Roney, Shawn Faulkner and Rachelle Owens.

- Announcement of Recognition & Awards
- Shawn Faulkner presented the **Richard "Dick" Lipka Lifetime Achievement Award** to Dr. Micki Caskey. Kathy Malu provided comments from the nomination letters of fellow SIG members.

PUBLICATIONS

- *Middle Grades Research Journal*--Fran Spielhagen, provided an update on MGRJ.
- MGRJ went from 4 issues to 3 issues a year. 27% acceptance rate.
- In need of reviewers. 2015 is the 10th year anniversary for the journal.
- Special thanks to all reviewers.

Executive Advisor's Report

Dave Strahan led a discussion of the SIG's Strategic Plan. The ad hoc committee reviewed previous strategic plans and provided an update to the membership. Ad hoc committee members were: Dave Strahan Jenny Jagla, Nicole Miller and Heather Haverback. Committee sent out an open-ended survey two-weeks prior to the 2014 AERA meeting. The ad hoc committee made recommendations consisting of 4 goals:

- Provide high quality reports and research to inform practice.
- Actions to consider:
 Continue the Handbook series—Consider teacher preparation as a topic

Explore opportunities for providing research briefs to share with other middle level organizations

- Maintain and grow our membership.
- Actions to consider:
 Review who our members are now, how long they have been members, and how active they have been.
 Work with other organizations to expand the distribution list.
 Improve communication.
 Consider possibilities for using online tools to enable participation in sessions and meetings from a distance.
- Expand opportunities for collaboration and publication.
- Actions to consider:
 Strengthen our relationships with NAPOLME, AMLE, National Forum, ATE MLE SIG.
 Facilitate networking among researchers with similar interests.
 Explore ways to link the SIG website with the websites of other middle level organizations.
- Expand opportunities for leadership.
- Actions to consider:
 Develop more formal roles for volunteers to work with members of the Executive Council on SIG initiatives (for example, membership on an "awards committee" with a letter of recognition).

Chris Cook called for a motion to accept the recommended goals from the ad hoc strategic planning committee. Nicole Miller moved to accept the recommendation and Kathy Malu seconded the motion. The membership voted unanimously to accept the recommendations. These goals will become the new strategic plan. Dave Strahan will send the four recommendations to those who were unable to attend the meeting.

(Continued on page 15)



MLER SIG Business Meeting
April 3, 2014, 6:15-7:45 pm
AERA Meeting Philadelphia, PA

MINUTES (Continued from page 14)

Dick Lipka recommended that members of the SIG to participate in regional AERA conferences in an effort to mentor and participate with researchers and scholars who do not attend the national meeting.

Special presentation and guests.

NCES Middle Grades Longitudinal Study of 2016 17-
 --Presentation by Carolyn Fidelman& Jerry West

Partnerships – In an effort to strengthen partnerships with other national organizations, Will Waidelich (Executive Director of AMLE) and Debby Kasak (Executive Director of Nat’l Forum) brought greetings from AMLE and the National Forum. Both encouraged SIG members to get involved in the organizations.

- Debby Kasak would like for the SIG to get involved with the updating of the 21st Century Research Agenda. They will start with a small ad hoc committee to begin this process. The Forum would like to work with AMLE to help distribute Research Summaries to a wider audience and work with the SIG to think about how to extrapolate current research for policy advocacy.

- The three ad hoc committees with which SIG members can become involved are:
 Recruitment and dissemination of research summaries.
 Revisit the agenda for research.
 Review available data for possible policy implications.

Dick Lipka suggested these groups begin the work with considering the effects of high-stakes testing.

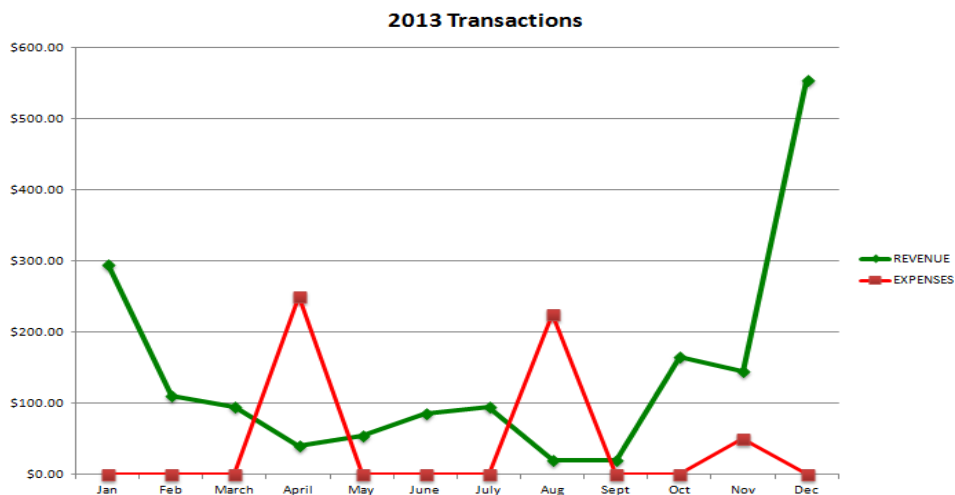
Handbook of Middle Level Education series-- Micki Caskey

- The 2nd volume of the Handbook of Resources is: *Clinical Preparation at the Middle Level: Practices and Possibilities*, Edited by Penny Howell, Jan Carpenter and Jeanneine Jones.

Micki Caskey led a Tribute to Vincent A. Anfara, Jr. Over 30 people joined in the Informal Social Gathering @ *The Circ* directly after meeting for dinner and conversation.

(Continued on page 16)

MLER SIG FY 2013 Financial Report





**MLER SIG Business Meeting
April 3, 2014, 6:15-7:45 pm
AERA Meeting Philadelphia, PA**

MINUTES *(Continued from page 15)*

MLER SIG FY 2013 Financial Report

Beginning Balance: \$5,489.10
 Revenue: \$1,680.00
 Expenses: \$525.00
 Ending Balance: \$6,644.10

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
Membership Dues	\$295.00	\$110.00	\$95.00	\$40.00	\$55.00	\$85.00	\$95.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$165.00	\$145.00	\$555.00
Donations												
CPT Project, Phase II												
Licenses/Fees								\$225.00				
Copier/Duplication												
Awards				\$250.00								
Office Supplies												
Postage/Mailing												
Nat'l Forum Dues											\$50.00	
Fubs/Printing												
Receptions/Events												
Misc												
REVENUE	\$295.00	\$110.00	\$95.00	\$40.00	\$55.00	\$85.00	\$95.00	\$20.00	\$20.00	\$165.00	\$145.00	\$555.00
EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$250.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$225.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$50.00	\$0.00
BALANCE - Month	\$5,784.10	\$5,894.10	\$5,989.10	\$5,779.10	\$5,834.10	\$5,919.10	\$6,014.10	\$5,809.10	\$5,829.10	\$5,994.10	\$6,089.10	\$6,644.10

Prepared by Kenneth Alonzo Anderson, SIG Financial Officer

MLER SIG FY 2013 Itemized Expenditure Report		
Month	Purpose	Amount
April	Graduate Award (M. Zheng)	\$250.00
August	SIG Management Fee 7/12-6/13	\$225.00
November	National Forum Member Fee (David Strahan)	\$50.00
	Total Expenses	\$525.00



**MLER SIG Business Meeting
April 3, 2014, 6:15-7:45 pm
AERA Meeting Philadelphia, PA**

MINUTES *(Continued from page 16)*
MLER SIG FY 2014 Financial Report

Beginning Balance: **\$6,644.10**
 Revenue: **\$400.00**
 Expenses: **\$0.00**
 Ending Balance: **\$7,044.10**

	Jan	Feb	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept	Oct	Nov	Dec
<i>Membership Dues</i>	\$195.00	\$205.00										
<i>Donations</i>												
<i>CPT Project, Phase II</i>												
<i>Licenses/Fees</i>												
<i>Copier/Duplication</i>												
<i>Awards</i>												
<i>Office Supplies</i>												
<i>Postage/Mailing</i>												
<i>Nat'l Forum Dues</i>												
<i>Pubs/Printing</i>												
<i>Receptions/Events</i>												
<i>Misc</i>												
REVENUE	\$195.00	\$205.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
EXPENSES	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
BALANCE - Month	\$6,839.10	\$7,044.10	\$7,044.10	\$7,044.10	\$7,044.10	\$7,044.10	\$7,044.10	\$7,044.10	\$7,044.10	\$7,044.10	\$7,044.10	\$7,044.10

MLER SIG FY 2014 Itemized Expenditure Report		
Month	Purpose	Amount
N/A		\$0.00
	Total Expenses	\$0.00

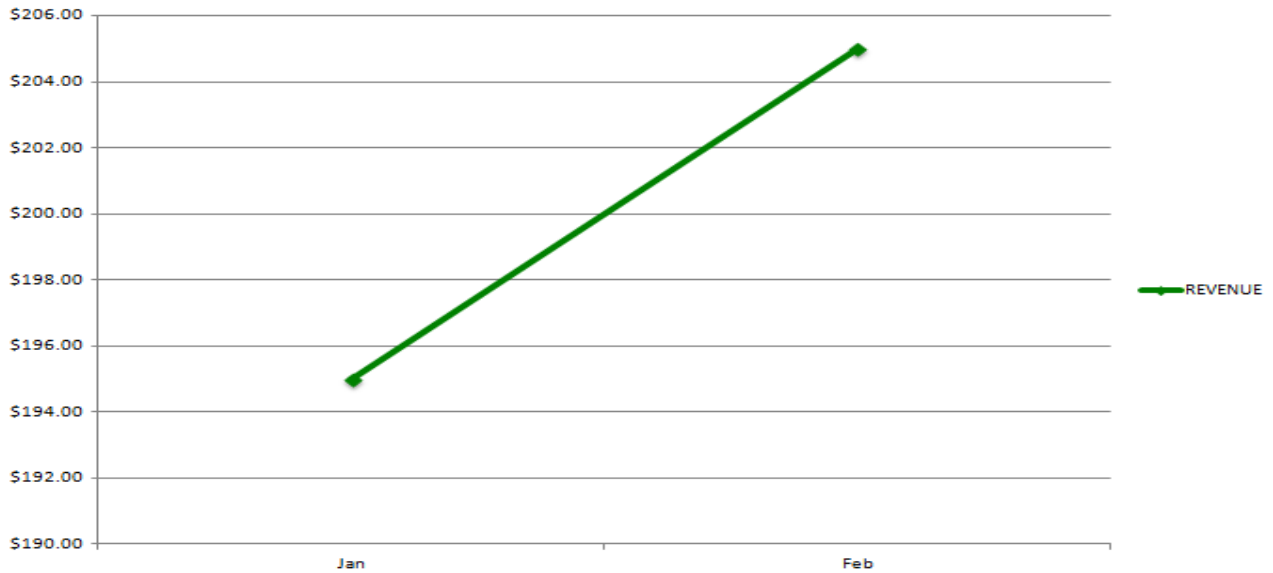


MLER SIG Business Meeting
April 3, 2014, 6:15-7:45 pm
AERA Meeting Philadelphia, PA

MINUTES *(Continued from page 17)*

MLER SIG FY 2014 Financial Report

2014 Transactions



Note: March and April transactions have not yet posted.

MLER SIG FY 2014 Financial Report

Three-Year Trend

