



2025 ANNUAL MEETING CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

Wednesday, March 26th - Friday, March 28th, 2025

Jessica York McKinney, President

Bryan Mascio, Vice President/Conference Chair

NEERO 2025 Conference Theme

I. Theme: Equity, Justice, and Renewal in Education: Bridging Gaps through Research and Innovation

Building on the American Educational Research Association 2025 Annual Meeting theme, the New England Educational Research Organization (NEERO) 2025 Annual Conference calls for research proposals that fit under the theme of “Equity, Justice, and Renewal in Education: Bridging Gaps through Research and Innovation.”

In an era marked by rapid change and growing educational disparities, the pursuit of equity and justice in education remains a vital challenge. The NEERO 2025 Annual Conference invites researchers, educators, policymakers, and activists to explore the theme of “Equity, Justice, and Renewal in Education: Bridging Gaps through Research and Innovation.” This theme emphasizes the need for cutting-edge research and innovative practices to address and overcome barriers to educational equity and justice.

NEERO seeks proposals that investigate how research can uncover, disrupt, and address disparities in educational access, outcomes, and opportunities. We encourage submissions that delve into topics such as:

- **Equitable Policy Development:** Proposals that explore policies designed to create equitable educational environments and promote fairness in educational systems.
- **Equitable Leadership Practices:** Research on leadership practices that ensure equitable access to quality education.

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- Inclusive Pedagogy: Research on teaching practices and pedagogical approaches that ensure all students, regardless of background, have access to quality education and opportunities to succeed.
- Community-Driven Reforms: Studies highlighting the role of community engagement and grassroots initiatives in driving educational reforms and addressing local disparities.
- Innovative Practices: Examples of cutting-edge methodologies and technologies that have been successful in bridging educational gaps and fostering a more inclusive learning environment.
- Evidence-Based Solutions: Research that provides concrete evidence of ways to improve educational equity and justice, including case studies and data-driven analyses.

NEERO welcomes submissions of other topics that align with the conference theme.

A vital aspect to NEERO is providing a forum for novice and expert researchers, students, professors, policymakers, teachers, consultants, and activists to come together to share research and engage in critical dialogue. We invite undergraduate students, graduate students, practitioners, institutional researchers, faculty, classroom teachers, policymakers, community organizers, and activists to submit proposals for the NEERO 2025 Annual Conference.

II. NEERO 2025 General Information

- NEERO 2025: Wednesday, March 26 - Friday, March 28, 2025
- Details to follow regarding the format and structure of the event.
- The NEERO 2025 conference program will primarily consist of research papers, research in-progress roundtables, research posters, practitioner pedagogical innovations, practitioner problem-of-practice roundtables, and symposia (research or practitioner) selected through this open call and based on a peer-review process guided by NEERO strand directors. Other elements of the program include keynote and invited speakers, awards panel, and an annual business meeting.
- Researchers/authors acknowledge that their work complies with professional codes of ethics for research.
- All submissions must be completed through *OpenConf* at: [NEERO2025 - OpenConf Abstract Submission, Peer Review, and Event Management System](#)
- For general questions regarding the NEERO 2025 conference, please contact Vice President & Conference Chair, Bryan Mascio at neero.conference@gmail.com or through the **OpenConf** website by clicking **Email Chair**.

Please check the NEERO website regularly for up-to-date information on conference reference registration and Sheraton information: www.neero.org

III. Submission Procedures and Policies

- **Submission is open to NEERO members and non-members.**
Membership to NEERO is included in the conference registration fee.
- **Submissions are accepted online only** through *OpenConf* at: [NEERO2025 - OpenConf Abstract Submission, Peer Review, and Event Management System](#)
- **Submissions are due no later than Friday, November 1, 2024 at 11:59pm ET.**

Session Formats: NEERO accepts the following session formats from researchers and practitioners: 1) Individual presentation format (including paper/presentation, research in progress roundtable, and poster); 2) symposia as a full session

1) Individual Session Format (proposal for one research study with one or more authors)

- **RESEARCH: PAPER PRESENTATION:** Paper sessions provide each author an opportunity to present a condensed version of a completed study. The research may focus on a question from an empirical or theoretical perspective. A response by a discussant will follow after all papers in the session have been presented.
- **RESEARCH: IN PROGRESS ROUNDTABLE:** Roundtable sessions offer opportunities to obtain insights and suggestions from colleagues in an informal, interactive format in order to support a developing study. This category is particularly valuable for graduate students working on dissertations.
- **RESEARCH: POSTER:** Posters offer the opportunity to present a topic in display form rather than as a formal oral presentation. The poster presents a completed study. The poster presentation format is ideal for subjects for which a one-on-one explanation is more appropriate than a group presentation or topics which require detailed examination.
- **PRACTITIONER: PEDAGOGICAL INNOVATION PRESENTATION:** Practitioners present new and innovative teaching strategies or methods they have implemented in educational settings. This presentation is ideal for teachers/teacher leaders focus is on showcasing creative approaches to pedagogy and their impact on student learning.
- **PRACTITIONER: PROBLEM OF PRACTICE ROUNDTABLE:** In this roundtable format, practitioners discuss specific challenges or problems they face in their practice. Participants share in an informal, interactive format in order to engage in a collaborative discussion to explore potential solutions and strategies.

2) Symposium (integrated set of presentations in one session)

A symposium consists of an integrated set of presentations (research or practitioner) related to the same topic. All presentations are of completed studies. This format is especially well suited to partnerships among K-12 schools, universities, and/or private institutions. A symposium should include at least three, but no more than five presentations. Proposals should include the name of the symposium organizer (to whom all correspondence about the proposal will be sent). Symposium organizers are responsible for naming their own chair and discussant, if that is the format their symposium will take.

IV. Strands

When you submit your proposal, you will be asked to identify it as relevant to one of the following topic areas:

1. Curriculum and Instruction - *Strand Director: Kelly Swindlehurst; Strand Co-Director: Patty Mason*

The Curriculum and Instruction strand targets research-based practices that consider equity and inclusivity as central tenets to the development and implementation of innovative curriculum and pedagogical practices across the lifespan. Global competencies, experiential and place-based learning, curriculum design/revision, technology as curriculum and pedagogy as well as policy studies at the school, district and regional level are pivotal in the exploration of this strand.

2. Diversity and Sociocultural Cultural Perspectives - *Strand Director: Denise Sargent; Strand Co-Director: Laurie Link*

The Diversity & Sociocultural Perspectives strand accepts conference proposals that explore the social, cultural, personal, structural, and systemic aspects of diverse communities, with the objective of developing a critical understanding of the perspectives that arise in the schooling of emergent bilingual, immigrant, special education, first generation communities, etc. Topics addressed include the socio-political, economic, legal, philosophical, and pedagogical perspectives. Specifically, it reviews perspectives in the following broad categories: program design, curriculum and instruction, non-school factors affecting achievement, de-culturation, assimilation and acculturation, assessment, the appropriate education of special populations (migrants, refugees, and students with special education needs or limited formal schooling), and the relation to the above topics (e.g. access to appropriate assessment, access to technology, access to high quality instruction, access to graduation, etc.).

3. Higher Education -*Strand Director: Aubrey Scheopner Torres; Strand Co-Director: OPEN*

The Higher Education strand accepts conference proposals that explore the social, cultural, personal, structural, and systemic aspects of higher education. Topics addressed within this strand include, for example: issues of access, equity and diversity; trends in early college, undergraduate and graduate programming; curricular and pedagogical assessment; administration; institutional reform; leadership; professional development; international studies programs; study abroad; and student learning. The strand seeks proposals that present rigorous qualitative, quantitative, conceptual, and mixed methods designs from a variety of theoretical frameworks that explore all levels of postsecondary education and programming as well as institutional types (e.g. community colleges, land grant, tribal, virtual, public, private, etc.).

4. Human Development and Learning - *Strand Director: Andrew Miller; Strand Co-Director: Beth Fornauf*

The Human Development and Learning strand seeks proposals that examine learning and human development in community-based, PreK-12 and postsecondary contexts. Proposals in this strand should address topics related to cognition, emotion, and motivation across the lifespan, and examine the interaction between human development and learning processes, and their ecological, cultural, and social influences. The strand welcomes proposals that are empirical or conceptual in nature, and that utilize clearly presented theoretical frameworks, and rigorous methodological design (e.g. qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches).

5. Leadership, Policy, and Educational Reform - Strand Director: Gail Prelli; Strand Co-Director: Jennifer Sinal Swingler

The Leadership, Policy and Educational Reform strand accepts proposals that investigate or explore concepts and ideas that relate to leadership practices, policies that have an effect on education, or research pertaining to reform initiatives with an emphasis on Pre-K-12 education. Examples of concepts proposed in the past include, leadership actions designed for specific demographics or populations, leadership initiatives targeted to increase performance, reviews of the effect policy has on specific groups or organizations, recommendations for policy revision, as well as the effects of reform initiatives on the institution, groups or individuals. Proposals have included international studies as well as local and national investigations. The strand seeks proposals that present rigorous qualitative, quantitative, conceptual, and mixed methods designs from a variety of theoretical frameworks that explore all levels of education and programming as well as institutional types (e.g. virtual, public, private, etc.).

6. Measurement, Assessment, Evaluation, and Research Methods - Strand Director: Tricia Stewart; Co-Director: Bharati Shah (Bobbie) Chakraborty

The Measurement, Assessment, Evaluation & Research Methods strand encourages submissions that present innovative research on any of these areas. Examples of topics related to measurement and assessment include but are not limited to item and test development, current uses of assessment data, scale development, and application of psychometric models. This strand also encourages proposals that showcase results of evaluation studies including, for example, evaluation of educational policies or programs (at any scale). Issues explored by educational researchers are often complex and ever-evolving, thus requiring innovative and nuanced research methods. This strand also welcomes submissions that propose and discuss innovative research approaches (both qualitative and quantitative) or innovative applications of common methodologies.

7. Professional Development - Strand Director: Bo Zhang; Strand Co-Director: Carmela Amato-Wierda

Professional development (PD) is central to the career of researchers and educators. As such, the PD strand serves as means for the sharing of tools, resources, and information aimed at continuous improvement of one's career, research, and education. Examples of PD include but are not limited to ongoing informal and formal training, participation in professional organizations, enrollment in graduate programs, and conducting research. The PD Strand welcomes research that utilizes a variety of quantitative, qualitative, and/or mixed methods as well as direct and indirect measures to analyze professional development experiences. In addition, this PD strand values the role of technology in such experiences as well as the new developments in the field and ways to improve existing skills.

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8. Teaching and Teacher Education - *Strand Director: Mary Grasseti; Strand Co-Director: Deb Patterson*

The Teaching and Teacher Education (TTE) strand is oriented toward research on the development and preparation of preservice and inservice teachers at all levels, and in a variety of settings. Topics that are a good fit for the TTE strand include research on: impacts of methods course strategies/assignments; discerning and developing teacher dispositions; candidate growth through field-based experiences; faculty examination of educator preparation practices; implementation of culturally sustaining practices or other frameworks (e.g. UDL, SEL as explicated by CASEL) in teacher education and professional development; and understanding the impact of education initiatives or policy on the contexts of teaching and teacher education.

9. Technology in Education - *Strand Director: Kathryn Welby; Co-Director: OPEN*

The Technology in Education strand seeks proposals focused on technology in learning environments and assessment. Research proposals can include, but are not limited to, technology's role in curriculum, instruction, and assessments; how educational environments are leveraging technology to improve student engagement, motivation, and learning; and individual technology pedagogical content knowledge (TPCK). Additionally, proposals can address the application, analysis, and effectiveness of pedagogical approaches made possible by technology and how equitable access to educational technology, digital content, and technology can enhance learning opportunities to meet the diverse needs of all learners. Other suggested proposals can include research on innovations related to digital assessments as well as the research and application of instructional design principles to create innovative digital learning environments that engage and support learning. The strand welcomes empirical or conceptual proposals that clearly represent theoretical frameworks and rigorous methodological design, including qualitative, quantitative, and mixed-method approaches, as well as conceptual analysis.

V. Proposal Submissions

a) Steps for a New Submission

- NEERO proposal Submission are due no later than Friday, November 1, 2025 at 11:59 PM ET
- NEERO proposal submissions are accepted online only at: [NEERO2025 - OpenConf Abstract Submission, Peer Review, and Event Management System](#)

STEP 1: Go to: [NEERO2025 - OpenConf Abstract Submission, Peer Review, and Event Management System](#)

STEP 2: Scroll down to the "Authors" heading - click on "Make Submission"

STEP 3: When you submit a proposal, you will be asked to provide the following information:

1. **Proposal Title** (Title of Paper/Presentation or Symposium)
2. **Session Format (select one):**
 - a. research paper,
 - b. research poster,
 - c. research in-progress roundtable
 - d. practitioner pedagogical innovation presentation
 - e. practitioner problem-of-practice roundtable, or
 - f. symposium

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Paper, poster, and symposium proposals must describe completed research; If your study is not complete, or will not be complete by NEERO 2025, please submit your proposal as a research-in-progress roundtable.

3. **Topic Area (select one):**

1. Curriculum and Instruction
2. Diversity and Sociocultural Cultural Perspectives
3. Higher Education
4. Human Development and Learning
5. Leadership, Policy and Educational Reform
6. Measurement, Assessment, Evaluation, and Research Methods
7. Professional Development
8. Teaching and Teacher Education
9. Technology in Education

4. **Authors:**

For each author the following information will be needed:

- a. Name, e-mail, telephone, school or organization, country if outside of US, and position: professional, graduate student, undergraduate student
- b. Willingness to serve as a reviewer of proposal submissions
- c. Willingness to serve as a chair/discussant at the NEERO 2025 conference

5. **Contact Author:**

- a. Author who will serve as the point of contact for correspondence about the submission. Please note: formal NEERO communications are only sent to the designated contact author.

6. **Abstract & Key Words:**

- a. Abstract: 200 words or less
- b. Key Words: please identify at least 3 key words

7. **Proposal - CHOOSE Research OR Practitioner OR Symposium**

- a. File: Upload your proposal without any identifying information included anywhere in the proposal. DO NOT use your last name as the file name. Please upload ONLY PDF or WORD (.doc, docx) files. Uploaded files with author identifying information will not be reviewed.
- b. **(Please see the section below for details on the required content for each of the PROPOSAL types)**

8. **General Comments:**

Provide any comments that you would like to add as part of your proposal.

9. **Password:**

You will be asked to create a password that will allow you to edit and check the status of your submission.

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10. Confirmation:

Author will be asked to confirm the following:

- a. Word count (Excluding references, tables or figures: 1,500 words or less for Research formats, 1,000 words or less for Practitioner formats;; 2,000 words or less for symposium format)
 - b. Uploaded files do not contain author identifying information
 - c. Contact Author will serve as the primary point of contact
- **Please carefully review the following sections for details on the content of the PROPOSAL.**
 - *Submissions are reviewed without author identification. All proposal uploads must contain **NO** author identification.*
 - After completing the submission form you will be assigned an ID and you will be prompted to create a password. Please keep your ID and password readily available, as you will need it to edit and check the status of your submission, accept/decline the invitation to present, and upload your final paper. ***You may edit your submission up to the deadline of Friday, November 1, 2024 at 11:59 PM ET.***

b) Required Components of Proposals - Varies by Proposal Format

- **Research Proposal Formats** (research paper, research in-progress roundtable, research poster)

Research proposals are limited to a summary of *1,000 to 1,500* words, excluding references, tables or figures. All research proposals should provide the following, preferably in order:

 1. The title of your proposal
 2. Objectives or purposes of the study or work being presented;
 3. Perspective(s) or theoretical framework;
 4. Methods, techniques, or modes of inquiry;
 5. Data sources or evidence;
 6. Results and/or conclusions/point of view (preliminary, on-going, or complete); and
 7. Educational or scientific significance of the study.
 8. For a research roundtable, please also include what feedback you hope to receive from session participants on your in-progress study.
- **Practitioner Proposal Formats** (pedagogical innovation presentation or problem-of-practice roundtable)

Practitioner proposals are limited to a summary of 1,000 words, excluding references, tables or figures. The questions to be addressed are different for the two Practitioner formats.

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Practitioner: Pedagogical Innovation Presentations

1. The title of your proposal.
2. What is the question of practice that your Pedagogical Innovation is intending to address (ex. What are/were you hoping to improve)? Please be sure to specify your context. Why might other practitioners be interested in addressing that problem?
3. When you were designing your pedagogical Innovation, what resources did you use or take into consideration, to base it on (specific best practices, professional literature, research literature, etc.)?
4. Briefly describe your Practitioner Innovation (the lesson, activity, unit. Resources, etc.)
5. What kind of information/data did you collect and look at/analyze to determine if your pedagogical innovation was valuable/effective in addressing the identified question of practice?
6. What are your reflections? What did you find out about your pedagogical innovation (how it addressed the problem of practice, and any other impacts may have had on you, your students, curriculum, colleagues, community, etc.)? What next steps are you considering?
7. What are the resources and/or skills that practitioners may gain by attending your session?

Practitioner: Problem-of-Practice Roundtable:

1. *The title of your proposal.*
2. What dilemma/problem is this roundtable discussion meant to help you address? It may be related to either practice or research.
3. What could be the impact of potential solutions to this problem?
4. What have you done so far (at the time of this submission) to gather information or work to solve this?
5. What additional work or gathering of information do you intend to do before the conference?
6. What insights are you hoping will be gleaned from this roundtable discussion?

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- **Symposium Proposal Format** (Multiple integrated presentations - Research or Practitioner - in one session)

The proposal format for the symposium is limited to a summary of 2,000 words (or fewer), excluding references, tables or figures. Symposium proposals can be either Research- or Practitioner-oriented. A symposium is a 90-minute group session - with a set of three to five presentations and a pre-designated discussant/chair - generally focused on a common objective or theme. The summary should deal explicitly with as many of the following topics as are appropriate, preferably in order:

1. Overall topic and objectives of the symposium session;
2. Educational or scientific significance of this topic;
3. For each presentation, please include a paragraph which succinctly addresses the questions that would be answered in the appropriate (Research or Practitioner) format – see the Research OR Practitioner sections above for the respective list of proposal questions.
4. Discussion of how the session will be structured (for example, a traditional structure would be presentations followed by discussant commentary, but you are welcome to create a structure that best fits your needs).

VI. Completing the Proposal Submission Process

- When you complete the submission process, you will receive an acknowledgment of receipt along with an ID number. **Please keep this ID number readily available, as you will use it to check the status of your proposal and upload your final paper.**
- Decisions: You will receive a decision regarding your proposal by January 6th, 2025.
- **Please note that if your session proposal is accepted, only the designated contact author will be notified and be asked to RSVP.** The designated contact author is responsible for notifying all participating co-authors.

VII. Common Mistakes and FAQs

a) Common NEERO Proposal Submission Mistakes

- Uploading files with author identification. All file uploads for individual paper and symposium submissions must be submitted **without** author identification.
- Exceeding the word limit. When submitting a proposal, please adhere to the published limits: 1,500 words or fewer per RESEARCH proposal, 1,000 words or fewer per PRACTITIONER proposal, and 2,000 words or fewer per SYMPOSIUM proposal.
- Submitting a proposal to write a paper rather than submitting a proposal with preliminary findings (unless submitting as a research in progress roundtable).
- Submitting a previously published or presented paper (unless invited).
- Indicating the wrong session format for your submission (paper versus roundtable).
- Removal of an accepted proposal from the conference because the contact author did not RSVP to confirm that you plan to present your research (RSVP deadline is **January 30, 2025**).

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b) FAQs

Do I need to be a NEERO Member to submit a proposal?

No, you do not need to be a NEERO member to submit a proposal. If your proposal is accepted, membership will be included in the cost of conference registration.

What is the deadline for the 2025 Annual Meeting Submissions?

Friday, November 1, 2024, at 11:59 PM ET.

Does my submission have to be related to the conference theme?

No, NEERO encourages submissions related to the theme, but as always, accepts proposals for all areas of educational research.

What is required for a symposium?

Please see the section above for a detailed description of each RESEARCH and PRACTITIONER format. A SYMPOSIUM consists of an integrated set of presentations related to the same topic. This format is especially well suited to partnerships among K-12 schools, universities, and/or private institutions. A symposium should include at least three, but no more than five presentations. Symposium organizers are responsible for naming their own chair and/or discussant, if that is the format their symposium will take.

If I am sharing research, how do I decide which format to propose?

Research Paper and Research Poster proposals must describe completed research; If your study is not complete, or will not be complete by NEERO 2025, please submit your proposal as a research-in-progress roundtable.

What is the word count for a paper proposal or symposium?

15 words or fewer per title.

200 words or fewer per abstract.

1,500 words or fewer per RESEARCH uploaded proposal (with no author identification), not including references.

1,000 words or fewer per PRACTITIONER uploaded proposal (with no author identification), not including references

2,000 words or fewer per SYMPOSIUM uploaded proposal (with no author identification), not including references.

References, tables, charts, graphs, images, and figures should be added to the end of the paper and do not count towards the word count.

Do I choose a session format?

Yes, you will identify the correct "submission format" area.

Should I include author identification in my uploaded files?

No. Author identification should not be included for any abstract, paper, or session submissions.

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How many times can I be listed as a participant in the program?

Each individual can be listed as a presenter a total of three times in the program.

Is there a limit on the number of co-authors on my paper?

No. There is no limit for co-authors listed as long as they all contributed to the research. All authors are not required to present at the conference if the proposal is accepted.

What do I do if I forgot to add my co-author?

Prior to the submission deadline you can log in and edit your submission, including adding co-authors.

Do I need to use a specific format or style, such as APA?

NEERO recommends, but does not require, use of APA formatting for headings and references.

Can I present the same research project I presented at a previous NEERO Conference?

If you previously presented your research at a research-in-progress roundtable, you are welcome and encouraged to submit a proposal for the same research, especially if your project has been completed. If you previously presented your research as a paper, poster, or as part of a symposium, then your research is considered complete and you should not submit again.

Why was my submission removed (denied) from consideration?

Submissions are removed from consideration if you submit a full paper as a proposal (e.g., submitting any proposal beyond the word limit including complete dissertations and full papers that exceed the proposal word limit).

Submissions are removed from consideration if the uploaded files include author identifying information.

Submissions are removed from consideration if you submit an image of your poster without the required written summary.

When should I expect a decision about my proposal?

You will be notified of a decision on your proposal no later than **January 6th, 2025**.

If my proposal is accepted, what do I need to do next?

Confirm that you plan to present your paper at the NEERO 2025 conference by RSVPing via *OpenConf* ([NEERO2025 - OpenConf Abstract Submission, Peer Review, and Event Management System/](#)) by **January 30, 2025**.

Submit your full paper via *OpenConf* [NEERO2025 - OpenConf Abstract Submission, Peer Review, and Event Management System](#)) by **March 10th, 2025**. Prepare your presentation according to the specified format.

If my proposal is accepted, why was my proposal moved to a different presentation format?

Proposals are often moved from a paper presentation to a roundtable if the research presented is a work in progress, rather than research with substantiated findings (even preliminary) at the time the proposal is submitted.

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If my proposal is accepted, will it appear in the NEERO program?

Only proposals that were accepted and whose authors RSVP indicating that they plan to present at the NEERO 2025 conference will appear in the program.

If I encounter difficulty with OpenConf, who should I contact?

For general questions regarding the NEERO 2025 conference, please contact Vice President & Conference Chair, Bryan Masco at neero.conference@gmail.com or through the **OpenConf** website by clicking, **Email Chair**.