



2024 NERA Election Candidate Statements

Biographies and photos of candidates for the offices of President-elect and Director are below.

There are two open Director positions—both for a three-year term beginning at the conclusion of the 2024 conference.

The candidate elected President-Elect in 2024 will begin a one-year term as President following the 2025 conference, and Past-President following the 2026 conference.

NERA Candidates for President-Elect

Tabitha Bellamy



Tabitha M. Bellamy earned a Bachelor of Science in Biology from Howard University, a Master of Education from The George Washington University and a Master of Arts and PhD in Educational Psychology (concentration Research, Evaluation, Measurement and Statistics) from the University of Georgia.

She first attended NERA in 2009, when she was a doctoral candidate, and immediately fell in love with the association. Dr. Bellamy has served on Membership, Social Media, Mentoring and Ambassador committees.

She was a 2018 Annual Conference Co-Chair, a member of the Board of Directors, a co-creator of the Member Advocacy Committee and spearheaded initiatives to connect with HBCUs in the Northeastern Region.

In 2013, Dr. Bellamy served as the NERA liaison to the Consortium of State and Regional Educational Research Association, and has since been elected to a second term as president of the organization.

If elected president of NERA, she will work to ensure member satisfaction, increase retention and improve recruitment efforts.

The 2026 Conference Theme will be ***Educational Research: Keepin' It REAL in the age of AI***

Madison Holzman



My name is Madison Holzman and I am the Lead Consultant at Holzman Consulting. I work with organizations to support their goals in measuring and evaluating key outcomes, primarily in the education sector. I started coming to NERA as a graduate student at James Madison University and quickly felt at home by NERA leadership, conference professionals, and graduate students alike. It was a place where I could learn from and with others, and is a place where I have continued to proudly call a professional home.

Throughout my involvement with NERA, I have participated in several committees, including leading the Membership Committee and guiding the beginnings of the recently-created Member Advocacy Committee. For the past three years I've also had the opportunity to serve NERA on the Board of Directors, and before that served as a conference co-chair in 2020.

During my time with NERA, I've had the opportunity to watch the organization change and grapple with tough decisions as well as celebrate milestones and successes. From my experience as a conference co-chair and Board member, I have an understanding of the organization's needs and goals moving forward. If I have the opportunity to serve NERA as a President, I will work to continue to expand membership with practitioners and educators. I will also continue to focus on access and equity within NERA so all have the opportunities and feel comfortable attending, sharing their expertise, and learning at NERA as so many of us have had the privilege to do. NERA has provided so much to so many of us for years, and I would be honored to continue giving back to NERA.

NERA Candidates for Director

(two positions)

Nikole Gregg



My name is Nikole Gregg and I am a Psychometrician at the National Commission on Certification of Physician Assistants (NCCPA). In my role, I help maintain and develop NCCPA's certification, re-certification, and medical specialty exams. This work often includes collaboration with PAs throughout the assessment development process to ensure validity and fairness of test scores. My current research pertains to the validity of longitudinal assessments for re-certification of PA professionals. Previous to this role, I was a psychometric consultant at the Human Resources Research Organization (HumRRO) and a psychometrician at Cambium Assessment, where I conducted psychometric work across different business sectors: K-12 assessment, admissions testing, and language assessment.

Many of my professional opportunities have come from direct or indirect connections with NERA members or from NERA itself. I joined NERA in 2016 while I was a graduate student at James Madison University. Throughout the years as a NERA member, in addition to presenting research alongside colleagues, I have served in the following capacities:

- Member of the Graduate Student Issues Committee (2018-2021)
- Round Table Discussant (2016)
- Conference Registration Volunteer (various years)
- Reviewer for the 'Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper' Award (2019)
- Infrastructure Committee Chair (2021-2023)

As an organization, NERA provides a place of community. This community is held up by the volunteers across committees, the Board and Leadership team, and the members themselves. It would be an honor to serve as a Director for NERA, the organization that significantly set the foundation of my professional relationships and identity in the field of educational measurement and educational research. In particular, my experience as Infrastructure Committee chair from 2021-2023 provided instrumental knowledge of the inner-workings of NERA's maintenance and goals as an organization. In this role, I often collaborated across groups, including the Membership Committee, the Communications Committee, the Board and Leadership team, and Conference Chairs in order to maintain NERA's necessary functions and infrastructure. I plan to take my knowledge of NERA's needs and infrastructure into a Director role to inform decisions and visions toward NERA's future. Again, it would be an honor to serve NERA toward a bright future and give back in this way to a community that has given me and so many others a professional community full of opportunity. I appreciate your vote, and I hope to connect at an upcoming NERA.

Rory Lazowski



My name is Rory Lazowski and I'm currently a research scientist on the Learning Engineering team at College Board, though my professional career now spans over two decades (when did that happen?!). Prior to the College Board, I've worked in the public schools as a school psychologist as well as a faculty member at James Madison University (JMU), where I also received my PhD.

My professional identity has always been that of a research-practitioner, applying evidence, data, and theory to inform the work I do in practice. The underlying theme of my work, regardless of position, title, or setting, has been to enhance the educational outcomes of *all* students. Issues of access and inclusion have been important factors throughout my career. I've worked with students who have disabilities both in the K12 setting as well as my role at JMU working in their office of disability services. I've also had the opportunity to help students experiencing academic difficulties at JMU as the coordinator of a program delivering individual, academic coaching and subsequently as the coordinator of a peer tutoring program for the most challenging courses offered at the university.

In my current role as a researcher at College Board, I develop interventions and evaluate programs and services that aim to broaden the invitation and support students who wouldn't traditionally take the SAT and/or AP classes. My passion for the role of motivation drives and informs much of my work. Motivational factors represent a crucial point of leverage in designing and measuring College Board programs aimed at closing achievement gaps that presently exist. Toward that end, I am proud of the work our team engages in day to day to truly have an impact for students who need it most. My involvement with NERA began as a graduate student in JMU's Assessment & Measurement program. I still remember my first presentation at NERA as it was not only the first time I ever attended the conference but also because of the support and sense of inclusivity that I felt from the professionals and fellow graduate students in attendance.

I have thoroughly enjoyed contributing to NERA in a variety of ways. I have not only presented at NERA multiple times, but have also served as a proposal reviewer, a discussant, a session chair, and an invited panelist. I have also served on the Membership committee for several years, and for three of those years, had the honor to serve as the Membership committee chair. I've also served as a mentor for the annual conference's Mentor Program multiple times, which I plan to continue to do each year if am able. I feel that the welcoming and supportive nature that is so prevalent within NERA is one of the most endearing qualities about the organization, and I look forward to seeing how we can continually improve to be as inclusive as possible and provide an educational and enriching space where all feel welcome and where all can thrive. It has been inspirational to see the initiatives that NERA has taken in the recent past to bring awareness to inequities, promote access and inclusion, and to observe the research our members are conducting in this area.

My involvement in NERA - much like my love for NERA - deepens and I would be honored to serve on the Board of Directors. I truly believe in the power of NERA to impact the professional and personal lives of its members, from students all the way to our professional and retired members.

Mina Lee



My name is Mina Lee, and I am a psychometrician at Cambium Assessment. In my role, I oversee and improve statewide science assessments, which help state educational agencies and teachers understand students' abilities and problem-solving skills in science. Outside of operational tasks, I conduct research using test data to analyze student behaviors in test settings and the impact of item characteristics on those behaviors.

My journey with NERA began in 2017, when I attended my first conference as a first-year Ph.D. student at UMass Amherst. While I had participated in other conferences, NERA distinguished itself with its exceptional and inclusive community. It provided a welcoming platform where individuals from diverse backgrounds—academics, industry professionals, educators, and graduate students—came together with a shared passion for education and research.

Over the years, my involvement with NERA has deepened. Inspired by my initial experience, I sought to contribute more actively. In 2019, I became the email coordinator for the communication committee, and I subsequently served as the communication committee chair in 2021 and 2022. In 2023, I had the honor of serving as a conference co-chair, working to enhance the conference experience for all attendees. My time with NERA has been a valuable learning experience, offering opportunities to build professional networks, and I am now eager to give back by serving as a Director.

If elected, I will bring the same dedication and collaborative spirit that I have demonstrated in my previous roles within NERA. I firmly believe in NERA's power to facilitate enduring connections among its members. I am excited about the possibility of serving this exceptional organization with the existing Directors and standing committees. Thank you for considering my candidacy.

Catherine Manly



I am an Assistant Professor of Higher Education--Data Analytics at Fairleigh Dickinson University in the online higher education EdD program. I received my PhD in higher education from the University of Massachusetts Amherst and researched online education as a postdoctoral fellow at the City University of New York (CUNY). My postdoc was with the CUNY Graduate Center and the Borough of Manhattan Community College as a member of the Equity Through Education Research Group.

My research explores how flexibility in design and delivery of educational experiences can address under-acknowledged needs of students traditionally underserved by higher education. My dissertation investigated one aspect of the Universal Design for Learning framework, the use of multiple modalities for learning content. I received an Early Career Research Grant from the Society for Learning Analytics Research in 2022 to extend my dissertation research, considering how a prescriptive analytics approach could be useful in higher education applications. I now serve as co-PI with colleagues from my postdoc on a recently funded, 5-year, \$2.25 million NSF grant related to how institutional policies, structures and practices can best support STEM majors with (dis)abilities.

By seeking your support to serve on NERA's Board of Directors, I aim to give back to this community that has provided me with consistent professional support. NERA has been my professional home base since I started as a part-time doctoral student. A fellow graduate student encouraged me to present at NERA as a great way to get connected to the field and network with like-minded peers and mentors. He was right! I found NERA to be a wonderful place to learn about the education research field beyond UMass Amherst and gain practical experience. NERA built my confidence presenting within the education research field, and I have now presented over 40 research papers at over a dozen regional, national, and international research conferences.

My involvement in NERA includes volunteering as a reviewer for 14 conferences and at the NERA registration desk. By participating in NERA's mentoring match, I received professional advice that helped me as I sought a faculty position. I have served as session chair at 3 conferences, discussant at 4 conferences, and as a Program Committee member in 2019. I have been honored to receive both NERA's Lorne H. Woollatt Distinguished Paper Award with co-author Ryan Wells early in my doctoral studies as well as NERA GSIG's Best Paper by a Graduate Student Award for one of my 3 dissertation studies.

As a member of NERA's Board, I would seek to continue the organization's quality traditions, bolster NERA's membership and diversity, and extend opportunities for personal and professional development to graduate students and other educational researchers, particularly those new to NERA. Thank you for considering me for NERA's Board!

Huyuni Suratt



My name is Huyuni Suratt and I am currently serving as the Director of Sponsored Research at the CUNY Graduate Center while pursuing my PhD in the Department of Education Leadership Management and Policy at Seton Hall University. My professional journey has been shaped by a passion for higher education administration and a deep interest in the evolving dynamics of academic research management.

Education and Research

My academic path reflects my commitment to understanding the intricacies of higher education and business leadership:

- I'm a PhD candidate at Seton Hall University, in the Education Leadership Management and Policy department with a research focus on remote work for higher education administrators.
- I hold an MS in Business Leadership and Management from CUNY School of Professional Studies.
- My foundation in economics was laid with a BA from CUNY Queens College.

My doctoral research explores the implications of remote work for higher education administrators. This topic, at the intersection of technology, management, and education, allows me to contribute to the ongoing dialogue about the future of higher education administration.

Professional Engagement

I believe in the power of knowledge sharing and professional networking. To this end, I've had the privilege of presenting my work at several notable conferences:

- National Council of University Research Administrators (NCURA)
- Northeastern Educational Research Association (NERA)
- New England Educational Research Organization (NEERO)

I maintain active memberships with these organizations, as well as the Society of Research Administrators International (SRAI). These affiliations keep me connected to the latest trends and best practices in research administration and educational leadership.

My role as Director of Sponsored Research at the CUNY Graduate Center allows me to apply my expertise in a dynamic academic environment. I'm passionate about fostering research initiatives and supporting the academic community in their pursuit of knowledge and innovation.

I'm always eager to connect with fellow professionals and researchers in higher education administration, research management, and educational leadership.
