AERA and CGS Awarded NSF Grant to Advance Academic Support for Open Science

Washington, D.C., September 27, 2019 – The American Educational Research Association (AERA) and the Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) have received a collaborative grant from the National Science Foundation to convene higher education leaders, education researchers, and related scientists to advance academic support for open science.

A multi-day conference to be held in summer 2020 at the AERA Convening Center will bring together approximately 30 leaders with collective expertise in scientific productivity, science professions, and higher education institutions. The goal of this intensive working conference is to address what counts as open science productivity and quality in non-traditional research products (e.g., data sharing, replication studies, registered reports). It is expected that the meeting will lead to actionable strategies that can be “tested” in institutions interested in rethinking performance metrics and modes of assessing scientific productivity beyond publication in highly ranked journals.

AERA Executive Director Felice J. Levine and CGS President Suzanne T. Ortega will serve as co-chairs of the conference, uniting their longstanding interest in the academic and scientific workforce, issues of access and opportunity, transformation of scientific workforce demands in STEM fields, and what counts as valued and valuable scholarly productivity for this collaborative initiative. Their shared ambition for this initiative is to foster deeper consideration of measures of scholarly productivity in the institutions where the next generation of researchers are being trained, where science is organized, and where open science products are produced.

“Over the last decade, discussions about open science and the opportunities and barriers of expanded access to and transparency in research have demonstrated the clear public interest in enabling a climate of access to information, including the underlying data, materials, measurements, and tools that warrant research,” said AERA Executive Director Felice J. Levine. “Through our partnership with CGS, this conference will advance the understanding of the impact of intellectual contributions of scientific research outcomes and products in non-traditional forms.”
CGS President Suzanne T. Ortega added: “We hope this conference will affect the trajectory of the scientific enterprise at large by better articulating how different forms of research outcomes and products may be valued and appreciated. We want to address how we measure the impact and intellectual contribution of research outcomes with non-traditional forms of scientific products, such as research data, parallel to more traditional deliverables. Although this initiative emphasizes science, it is directly applicable to the humanities, and we intend to pursue funding to support that work, as well.”

AERA and CGS plan to convene an advisory committee to provide guidance on the conference plan, agenda, and participants. Conference participants will represent a diversity of expertise, institutional affiliations, regional representation, and demographics.

# # #

About AERA
The American Educational Research Association (AERA) is the largest national interdisciplinary research association devoted to the scientific study of education and learning. Founded in 1916, AERA advances knowledge about education, encourages scholarly inquiry related to education, and promotes the use of research to improve education and serve the public good. Find AERA on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

About CGS
The Council of Graduate Schools (CGS) is an organization of approximately 500 institutions of higher education in the United States and Canada engaged in graduate education, research, and the preparation of candidates for advanced degrees. The organization’s mission is to improve and advance graduate education, which it accomplishes through advocacy in the federal policy arena, research, and the development and dissemination of best practices.