Middle Level Education Research SIG Survey

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with the
Executive Council

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Purposes of the MLER SIG Survey

1. gain a better understanding of how the SIG is viewed by its members,
2. get members’ opinions about various SIG activities, and
3. determine options for enhancing involvement in the SIG.
Methods

• Created the 10 item MLER survey with Web Surveyor, an online tool

• Sent an invitation to respond to the survey via the MLER listserv (137 members)

• Posted the MLER Survey for 2 weeks

• n = 56 anonymous responses (41% response rate)
Results of Analysis

• Quantitative data displayed in charts and tables

• Qualitative data presented in brief summaries
  – Includes representative quotes from respondents
Familiarity with activities sponsored by the MLER SIG

25 - I am very familiar with the activities of the MLER SIG
15 - I am familiar with some of the activities of the MLER SIG
9 - I am not familiar with the activities of the MLER SIG
6 - I only know of one or two of the MLER SIG
Awareness of the benefits and opportunities of membership in MLER SIG

Our website has links to other middle level researchers: 67.9%
Discounts on *The Handbook of Research in Middle Level Education* series: 67.3%
Publication opportunities in *The Handbook of Research in Middle Level Education* series: 67.9%
Policy Briefs on issues in middle level education: 60.7%
Three issues per year of the newsletter: 67.9%

- **Yes, I was aware**
- **No, I was not aware**
Awareness of the benefits and opportunities of membership in MLER SIG

Opportunities to join research projects (national scope)
- Yes, I was aware: 80.4%
- No, I was not aware: 19.6%

Opportunities to network with other ML education researchers
- Yes, I was aware: 83.9%
- No, I was not aware: 16.1%

Two business meetings a year at AERA and NMSA conferences
- Yes, I was aware: 72.7%
- No, I was not aware: 27.3%

Our website includes position announcements
- Yes, I was aware: 67.9%
- No, I was not aware: 32.1%

Our website lists calls for papers and proposals
- Yes, I was aware: 42.9%
- No, I was not aware: 57.1%
## Perceptions of the MLER SIG

### Levels of Agreement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Perceptions</th>
<th>Agree % (#)</th>
<th>Disagree % (#)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for active participation in the MLER SIG.</td>
<td>90.4 (47)</td>
<td>9.6 (5)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for collaboration within the MLER SIG.</td>
<td>86.2 (44)</td>
<td>13.8 (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Opportunities for leadership in the MLER SIG.</td>
<td>82.4 (42)</td>
<td>17.6 (9)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLER SIG invites the participation of individuals regardless of age, ethnic background, or gender.</td>
<td>96.2 (50)</td>
<td>3.8 (2)</td>
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<tr>
<td>MLER SIG works effectively as an organization.</td>
<td>86.3 (44)</td>
<td>13.7 (7)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MLER SIG works well with other organizations.</td>
<td>83.3 (40)</td>
<td>16.7 (7)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Ability of MLER SIG website to meet members’ needs

Positive Responses (n=19)

I think the website does a great job of bringing together resources--human and otherwise--related to middle grades education research. I find it to be a useful tool, and often give out the address.

Negative Responses (n=3)

Not much information for new members. Had to navigate through the constitution to find information.

Total Responses (n=22)
Participation in MLER Activities for the past few years

Attended AERA meeting
- I participated: 89.3%
- I did not participate: 7.1%
- Other commitments prevented participation: 3.6%

Attended MLER business meeting at AERA
- I participated: 69.1%
- I did not participate: 30.9%
- Other commitments prevented participation: 12.7%

Attended NMSA conference
- I participated: 69.1%
- I did not participate: 30.9%
- Other commitments prevented participation: 12.7%

Attended MLER business meeting at NMSA
- I participated: 43.6%
- I did not participate: 20%
- Other commitments prevented participation: 36.4%
Participation in MLER Activities for the past few years

Presented a session at AERA meeting

- I participated: 65.5%
- I did not participate: 9.1%
- Other commitments prevented participation: 25.5%

Submitted a proposal for a session at AERA

- I participated: 60.7%
- I did not participate: 10.7%
- Other commitments prevented participation: 28.6%

Volunteered to review proposals for MLER sessions at AERA

- I participated: 45.5%
- I did not participate: 20%
- Other commitments prevented participation: 34.5%

Volunteered to serve as chair or discussant for MLER sessions at AERA

- I participated: 35.7%
- I did not participate: 12.5%
- Other commitments prevented participation: 51.8%
As an organization, is the MLER SIG meeting your needs?

- 19 - Definitely (45%)
- 23 - Basically (37%)
- 5 - Not really (10%)
- 4 - Somewhat (8%)
- 10%
Changes to increase satisfaction with MLER

Specific Changes for MLER (n=4)
• Additional awards
• Clarify proposal review process
• More communication and outreach
  “Frequent informational updates”

Specific Changes for Members (n=6)
• Need to get more involved
  “I probably need to be more proactive”

Unrelated to MLER (n=1)

Total Responses (n=11)
Recommendations: MLER Policy

Specific suggestions (n=11)
- Graduate student on council, research collaboration, policy brief topics, peer-reviewed journal, advocacy, network with other organizations, additional awards, research focus

Commendations (n=6)
- “I have been impressed with the support the SIG gives to graduate students conducting research.”

Neutral (n=2)
- “I don’t feel qualified to respond…”

Critique (n=2)
- “We need to have higher standards for any research we are willing to endorse/support.”

Total Responses (n=24)
Recent Actions in Response to MLER Survey Findings

• Proposed amendments to the SIG Constitution and Bylaws to:
  – Include a graduate student on the association council
  – Clarify the responsibilities of SIG officers and councilors

• Identified ad hoc committees to lead the SIG’s efforts to address strategic priorities, expand membership, add awards, and increase communication