



# **THE EVOLUTION OF EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH IN ONTARIO:**

*EXPLORING THE PAST, PRESENT  
AND FUTURE*

AERO Fall Conference 2011

December 1st, 2011  
The Old Mill, Toronto

## *Agenda*

8:45 - 9:00	<b>Welcome-</b> <i>Terry Spencer, AERO President</i>
9:00 – 9:15	<b>Overview of 40 years of Education in Ontario</b>
9:15 -9:45	<b>AERO’s History and Progression – AERO Past Presidents</b> <i>Sandra Sangster, Michael Kozlow, Paul Favaro</i>
9:45 - 10:00	<b>Launch of the new AERO Logo and Website</b> <i>Greg Rousell</i>
10:00 - 10:20	<b>BREAK</b>
<b>Breakout Session 1</b> 10:20 -11:00	<b>Choose Two Breakout Sessions</b>  <i>Session A – Data with Chris Conley</i> <i>(Main Presentation Room)</i>
<b>Breakout Session 2</b> 11:05 – 11:45	<i>Session B - Provincial Datasets with Michael Kozlow</i> <i>(Coffee Break Room)</i>  <i>Session C - School District Research with Lynn Kostuch</i> <i>(Lunch Room)</i>
11:45 – 12:45	<b>LUNCH</b>
<b>Keynote Address</b> 12:45 – 1:45	<b>Standing on the Shoulders of Giants: Futures Thinking and Education Research In, About and For Ontario</b>  <i>Dr. Carol Campbell - OISE/UT</i>
<b>Panel Discussion</b> 1:45 – 2:30	<b><i>A Preferred Future for Educational Research in Ontario</i></b> <i>Carol Campbell - OISE/UT</i> <i>Doris McWhorter - Ministry of Education</i> <i>Rebecca Merchant - Georgian College</i> <i>Alex Revell - Georgian College</i> <i>Dana Skalin - Georgian College</i> <i>Terry Spencer - AERO</i>
2:30 – 2:45	<b>Final Wrap-up &amp; Closing Comments</b>

## PRESENTATIONS

### OVERVIEW OF 40 YEARS OF EDUCATION IN ONTARIO

This brief chronology of Ontario’s educational past will begin with the post-war blueprint for Ontario schools and examine big picture education policy and politics over a procession of governments, Tory, Liberal and NDP. The influence of public opinion and research evidence on the Ontario educational landscape will also be explored.

### AERO’S HISTORY & PROGRESSION

A brief peak at AERO’s history as an association supporting educational research will be provided by three AERO Past Presidents: Sandra Sangster; Michael Kozlow and Paul Favaro.

Each Past President will discuss what the Association was like during their time as an Executive Member and address some of the successes and challenges that they have seen in educational research along the way.

### LAUNCH OF THE NEW AERO LOGO AND WEBSITE

AERO Communications & Partnerships Committee co-chair, Greg Rousell, will introduce the new Association of Educational Researchers of Ontario logo and website. Context for the change and a look to the future through AERO’s online presence will be shared.

#### NOTES:

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## **BREAKOUT SESSIONS – CHOOSE 2 SESSIONS**

**10:20 – 11:00 - 1<sup>st</sup> breakout session**  
**11:05 – 11:45 – 2<sup>nd</sup> breakout session**

### **DATA VISUALIZATION WITH *CHRIS CONLEY***

*(Main Presentation Room)*

Data Visualization is a well-established field that is used extensively by practitioners in Health Science, Computer Science, Business and Journalism to understand complex data sets. In Education, however, there are very few examples of data visualization despite the growth in capacity for data collection and analysis through initiatives such as MISA. During the breakout session, Chris will review the history of data visualization, highlight key concepts that are central to effective visualization and share examples of data visualization from an Education context.

### **PROVINCIAL DATA SETS WITH *MICHAEL KOZLOW***

*(Coffee Break Room)*

This session will present information on provincial data files that are currently available for research and how these have changed since the mid 80s, both with the Ministry of Education and EQAO. EQAO data files will be explored from the province-wide and school board perspectives. Plans for future reporting will be discussed and an interactive resource for school principals will be demonstrated. Participants will have an opportunity to discuss how they use current data files and what additional resources would be helpful to their work.

### **RESEARCH IN SCHOOL DISTRICTS WITH *LYNN KOSTUCH***

*(Lunch Room)*

The role of school district researchers is unique and multi-faceted. Participants in this interactive dialogue session will discuss the types of projects and services provided through school district research departments and how these relate to various other provincial and local initiatives. A discourse focused on researcher responsibilities and research impact will help to establish connections to support School Board researchers in planning, conducting and promoting research in school districts.

## KEYNOTE PRESENTATION

### STANDING ON THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS: FUTURES THINKING AND EDUCATION RESEARCH IN, ABOUT AND FOR ONTARIO

Building on past strengths and present education research in Ontario, this keynote discusses futures thinking and prospects for the work of education researchers, the contribution of education research and the role of AERO. Outlining concepts from ‘futures thinking’ approaches, the presentation will examine trends internationally, nationally and provincially to consider potential scenarios for the future of education research in Ontario. A key element of futures thinking is the capacity for strategic thinking, use of evidence and deliberate action to shape future knowledge and practice. This involves examining not only what futures are probable or possible but also most importantly what is desirable. The presentation will focus on future prospects for education research:

- *in* Ontario, including who are the researchers and what is our work,
- *about* Ontario, including research topics and knowledge mobilization, and
- *for* Ontario, including emerging priorities for research, practice and policy.

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## KEYNOTE PRESENTER: DR. CAROL CAMPBELL

**Dr. Carol Campbell** is Associate Professor, Leadership and Educational Change, at the Ontario Institute for Studies in Education (OISE), University of Toronto.

From 2005 – 2010, Dr. Campbell was a senior government official for the Ontario Ministry of Education, where she held the positions of Senior Executive Officer for The Literacy and Numeracy Secretariat (LNS), was appointed Ontario's first Chief Research Officer for Education, and became the founding Director of the Education Research & Evaluation Strategy Branch.

As well as her work in Ontario, Dr. Campbell has international experience in bringing together evidence and strategies to advance policies and practices for high quality education systems with improved outcomes for students. She has held positions in the United States of America and in the United Kingdom. She was Executive Director of the Stanford Center for Opportunity Policy in Education (SCOPE) at Stanford University, including overseeing the School Redesign Network and the Leadership, Equity and Accountability in Schools and Districts (LEADS) network. In the U.K., Dr. Campbell was a member of the faculty at the Institute of Education, University of London. She was also a Policy Advisor for the national government in England on strategies for improving school district performance and for the Commissioner for London Schools to create a framework for teachers' professional development. Originally from Scotland, Dr. Campbell completed her doctorate at the University of Strathclyde and held teaching and research posts at Strathclyde and Glasgow universities.

### NOTES:

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## PANEL DISCUSSION

To consolidate our learning from today's conference and to think about what the next 40 years of educational research might look like, panelists have been asked to address the following question:

***Reflecting on what you have heard today, in your opinion, what kind of future would you like to see in education and educational research in Ontario?***

### Panel Members

- ▶ Dr. Carol Campbell, Associate Professor, Leadership and Educational Change, OISE/UT
- ▶ Doris McWhorter, Interim Director, Education Research and Evaluation Strategy Branch, Ministry of Education
- ▶ Rebecca Merchant, Research Analyst Program (RAP) student, Georgian College
- ▶ Alex Revell, RAP student, Georgian College
- ▶ Dana Skalin, RAP student, Georgian College
- ▶ Terry Spencer, AERO President and Research Officer, London District Catholic School Board

### NOTES:

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*The Association of Educational Researchers of Ontario*  
*L'association ontarienne des chercheurs/chercheuses en éducation*

*“The objectives of this Association shall be to promote planning, development, research, and evaluation pertaining to education in the Ontario school system.”*

AERO, 1987

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*AERO EXECUTIVE 2011-2012*

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