

PAR Awards

Deadline for submission – September 29

One Award of up to \$2,000

The Problem

Professors of Education have been criticized for not translating the results of their research into practical applications for schools. Professors get credit for publishing their research, but not so much so for working directly with schools on the messy aspects of implementation.

PAR Awards

The Practical Application of Research (PAR) Awards are intended to encourage more thought about how the results of research might be used to improve practice in schools.

Criteria for PAR Awards

1. May be submitted on one's own research or the research of others (consider that Stephen Covey did not conduct any of the research upon which he based his best-selling, The Seven Habits of Highly Effective People.)
2. Must focus on problems of interest to schools – such problems might include, but are not limited to: (1) influencing teacher attitudes toward the difficult-to-teach students, (2) meeting NCLB requirements, (3) getting removed from the Low Performing list of schools, (4) successful implementation of inclusion of special education students into regular classrooms, (5) effective discipline, (6) creating climates of success in schools, (7) implementing GPS, (8) working with low performing teachers, etc.
3. May focus on two areas of interest to the Georgia Center for Educational Renewal: (1) raising the achievement of minority males or (2) increasing teacher efficacy. GCER has conducted a literature review on each of these areas that would be available to applicants. NOTE – while these are two areas of interest to GCER, they are not a required focus of these awards.
4. Will be selected by a panel of three public school personnel, using the criteria developed by that committee. Criteria will specify the components of an initiative that make it practical for schools to attempt to implement.

Criteria for the Awards

1. Recognizes the realities of the classroom – many students, some of which are not very well disciplined, and with little time for creative endeavors. The implication is that the PAR needs to be readily applicable, with the necessary materials, understandings, activities, resources, training, etc. readily accessible.
2. Fits within other on-going requirements that schools must meet such as GPS.
3. Fits within the regular school schedule (for high schools this would be the 50 minute

class period or 90 minute class period.)

4. Is based on sound research (acknowledging that very little educational research points unequivocally to one or another “solution”.)
5. Meets a problem that schools/teachers are experiencing.
6. Can be an application at the administrative level, staff level (such as counseling), as well as the classroom level.
7. Can be an application of how to do more effectively the collateral activities of school work, such as fostering teacher learning communities, utilizing technology to take over some of the routine work in the school, etc.

Application Requirements

1. Should be limited to 5 pages. Materials, etc., can be added as appendixes.
2. Should address the following topics: Research basis, the school problem(s) it addresses, description of the practical application itself, how it can work within the realities of the school/classroom.
3. Four hard copies should be submitted to the Georgia Center for Educational Renewal by September 29

Amount of PAR Awards

1. One award will be made.
2. \$1,000 to the winner; an additional \$500 if one or more schools agree to implement the plan (GCER will help to identify possible interested schools); an additional \$500 if a grant proposal is submitted – whether or not it is funded (GCER will help in identifying a possible source and in preparing the application for funding). This last funding is being provided by the College of Graduate Studies.

Awards

1. Award winner will be notified by October 30.
2. Award will be made at a ceremony presided over by Acting Dean Sandra Nettles of the College of Graduate Studies.

Support

1. GCER will be glad to meet with interested applicants to discuss ideas, fashion a proposal, etc.
2. GCER will be glad to aid in identifying funding sources or schools that might be interested in applying the proposal.