

LRA Board Candidate Statement

Gina N. Cervetti, University of Michigan

I am honored to be considered for LRA's Board of Directors. LRA has been my professional home for the two decades since I began my graduate work at Michigan State University. Now, as an associate professor of Literacy, Language and Culture at University of Michigan, I depend on LRA to stay informed, share my work, and build and sustain professional relationships.

My research and curriculum development work have focused on literacy development during the early elementary years, using inquiry-based science and other knowledge-enhancing experiences to support students' reading comprehension and language development. I am interested in how students can be supported in becoming more strategic and agential in their reading, writing, and word learning when they are supported by the grist of rich conceptual and participatory contexts. At the center of my scholarship is a commitment to ensuring that every child has access to the kinds of rich and authentic literacy instruction that enables them to use literacy for personal and academic purposes. My studies have been situated in urban and rural communities and among diverse populations of students, and have involved a particular interest in the education of emerging bilingual students. My research has appeared in the LRA's *Yearbook* and *Journal of Literacy Research* (JLR), as well as many other journals, including *Reading Research Quarterly*, *Reading and Writing: An Interdisciplinary Journal*, *Equity & Excellence in Education*, and *Contemporary Educational Psychology*.

Over the years, I have often served as proposal reviewer and as a presenter, discussant, and chair in conference sessions. Recently, my involvement with LRA has grown to include new service roles. From 2012-2015, I served as an Area Chair (Area 12). Since 2016, I have been a member of the Research Committee where I have been active in proposing and facilitating panel sessions of broad interest to LRA members. In 2016, I joined the Editorial Review Board for *JLR*. These roles have given me a good sense of LRA's strengths and ways that we can continue to advance our mission of improving literacy education through research.

As a board member, I would work to ensure we continue to support scholarship that is rigorous and connected to policy and practice, embracing a wide range of methodologies and issues related to literacy education. I would also advocate for the development of clear policies and programs that cultivate greater diversity in our membership and leadership and ensure that there is room in our organization for individuals with many different perspectives, identities, and experiences in the world. Finally, I would work to expand dissemination efforts (to media and directly to policymakers and practitioners) that will bring our rich collective work to bear on policy and practice in the interest of creating a more sound, equitable, and just educational system.

I am grateful to LRA for supporting me through the stages of my career, and I hope I can play a role in ensuring the organization is strong and welcoming for the next generation of literacy scholars.