



2025 James D. Anderson Outstanding Dissertation Award

About the Award

This award recognizes excellence in doctoral dissertation research (or its equivalent) that contributes to the knowledge base of educator preparation or of teaching and learning with implications for educator preparation. Overseen by AACTE's Committee on Research and Dissemination, the award includes a \$1,000 cash prize as well as special recognition at AACTE's 2025 Annual Meeting in Long Beach, California.

This award is named for James D. Anderson, one of the towering giants in the history of American education. With his landmark 1988 book, *The Education of Blacks in the South*, he transformed the field of African American educational history.

Eligibility and Selection Criteria

Individuals receiving a doctorate since January 1, 2023, may apply for this award. The primary selection criterion is quality of scholarship. In addition, the following criteria apply:

- Authors must have successfully defended their dissertation by the award submission date.
- The dissertation must make a significant original contribution to the knowledge about or practice of educator preparation and must address educator preparation issues, practices, or policies.
- The dissertation must be effectively organized, present a logically developed position, and provide evidence to support the conclusions drawn.
- An individual may submit only one entry each year.
- Authors need not be from AACTE member institutions.
- Competitive preference will be given to submissions that align with [AACTE's strategic priority](#) related to Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion.

Submission Requirements

All entries must be made through AACTE's [online submissions site](#). Attachments must include

- An information file providing the dissertation's title, author, and current contact information; the name of the institution where it was submitted; the date it was completed; and the dissertation adviser's contact information (name, title, current mailing address, and e-mail address)
- A letter of support (not blinded) from the dissertation adviser explaining the importance of the dissertation's question, the appropriateness and completeness of the study's design, and the significance of the analyses and interpretations
- A narrative summary file* that answers the following questions about the dissertation:
 1. What conceptual, methodological, or research question did it address?
 2. What was the rationale for the study?
 3. What was the knowledge base for the study?
 4. What research methodology was employed?
 5. What were the findings? What is important or particularly illuminating about the findings?
 6. What are the theoretical and/or practical implications of the findings?
 7. What were the strengths, weaknesses, and limitations of the study's design?
- An appendix that includes a copy of the dissertation's abstract, table of contents, and references. (Remove identifying marks to ensure blind review.)

** As you construct your narrative, do not simply cut and paste together pieces from your dissertation. For the first round of judging, an applicant's dissertation is rated SOLELY upon the narrative summary submitted. It is, therefore, essential that this summary reflect clearly, concisely, and accurately the research of the full dissertation. Narrative is not to exceed 10 double-spaced pages, exclusive of appendix pages; use 12-point font size and remove identifying marks to ensure blind review.*

For more information about this award, contact

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Entry Deadline: June 7, 2024