



# 2026 James Anderson Outstanding Dissertation Award

## About the Award

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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. **This award will be given to an individual who completed their dissertation at an AACTE member institution.** 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 2026 Annual Meeting in New Orleans, LA.

This award is named for James D. Anderson. He is 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 on or after January 1, 2024, may apply for this award. The primary selection criterion is quality of scholarship. In addition, the following criteria apply:

- Authors must have completed their dissertation at an **AACTE member-institution**.
- 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.
- Competitive preference will be given to submissions that align with [AACTE's strategic priorities](#).

## Submission Requirements

All entries must be made through AACTE's online submissions site. Attachments must include the following:

- 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)
- An appendix that includes a copy of the dissertation's abstract, table of contents, and references
- 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.
  - As you construct this narrative, do not simply cut and paste together pieces from your dissertation. It is essential that this summary reflects clearly, concisely, and accurately the research of the full dissertation. Narrative is not to exceed 10 double-spaced pages, exclusive of appendix pages; please use 12-point font size.
  - Your narrative summary file must answer 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, surprising, 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.

For more information about this award, contact Brooke Evans at 202- 478-3855 or at [bevans@aacte.org](mailto:bevans@aacte.org).

[Click here for nomination form](#)

**Entry Deadline: July 7, 2025**