



## Graduate Student Award 2026

**DESCRIPTION:** The Middle Level Education Research Special Interest Group is comprised of leading middle-level researchers both nationally and internationally. This Graduate Student Award is intended to promote and recognize outstanding research in the field of middle-level education and is presented annually to a graduate student or recent graduate of a masters, specialist, or doctoral program.

**ELIGIBILITY:** Any person who has graduated between July 1, 2024 and December 31, 2025 may apply. The focus of the research **MUST** be on a topic of relevance to middle level education.

**CRITERIA:** In addition to the application form linked below, please submit an abstract of your research for blind review. All submissions, regardless of level (master's, specialist, doctoral), will be evaluated using the same criteria. Your abstract is limited to five pages (double-spaced, one-inch margins, size 12 Times Roman Font). The abstract should address the following areas:

- (1) Research question(s) or hypothesis(es)
- (2) Significance of study to the field of middle level education
- (3) Research design
- (4) Findings
- (5) Conclusions and implications for practice
- (6) References

**Submit nominations** via this form: <https://forms.gle/OGiVgYtg8kvHeD667>

**Send questions to:** Dr. Kathleen Brinegar at [Kathleen.Brinegar@uvm.edu](mailto:Kathleen.Brinegar@uvm.edu)

**DEADLINE:** All submissions must be received no later than February 1, 2026. The recipient of this award will be notified in late February.

### AWARD/RECOGNITION

The award winner will be invited to present his/her research and will be awarded \$250.00 if the research is presented at the SIG's business meeting at either the American Educational Research Association's Annual Meeting or the Association for the Middle Level Education's annual conference, and a picture of the award winner along with the abstract will be posted on the SIG's website.

### Recent Winners:

2024, W. Keith Burgess, University of North Carolina, Charlotte  
2023 Susan Leonard, University of Georgia  
2019 Katie Walker, Texas Women's College  
2018 Scott Walker, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
2017 Shane Fletcher, North Carolina State