

Manitoba Education Research Network

**Annual Report
2012 - 2013**

MERN

Manitoba Education Research Network

Message from the Director:

The Manitoba Education Research Network (MERN) began in 2004 as an initiative within government. 2012-2013 is the first year that the network has functioned with a director outside of government. This transition is possible because of a grant from Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning, administrative support from the Manitoba School Improvement Program and office space provided by the Faculty of Education, University of Winnipeg. The development of an “arms length” relationship between MERN and government is intended to increase its organizational capacity to represent, more broadly, the research interests of all its associates in the education field.

Governed as an informal network, MERN draws upon in kind contributions from the five education faculties and affiliate education organizations to carry out its agenda of annual research events and activities. Since its inception, these contributions from network members have been significant with interest and support for MERN remaining constant and, in some cases, increasing over time. As a result, MERN has delivered its regular slate of events during the 2012 – 2013 school year and added new education research groups and initiatives highlighted here:

- The MERN Indigenous Education Research Group (IERG) commitment to indigenous education is now grounded by regular fall and spring education research seminars on issues important to First Nation, Metis and Inuit students in Manitoba. Members of IERG collaborate on a broad range of dissemination activities.
- This year, the MERN Mathematics Education Research Group (MERG) was established holding a MERN Special Forum on mathematics education research that encouraged dialogue on pedagogy and practice in this area. MERG is in the final stages of publishing a special volume of *The MERN Journal* with articles on Manitoba-based mathematics education research.

Also, of note is the extent to which technology applications have made possible a number of MERN activities that could not have happened otherwise. The University of Winnipeg provides technology access to link with Brandon University and University College of the North. Frontier School Division continues to support distance delivery for MERN group planning meetings and hosts the MERN Winter Forum as a videoconference event connecting sites across the province.

Now into a second year, the benefits of an emerging relationship between MSIP and MERN are apparent in several university and school research initiatives. Inquiry-based efforts for teacher development and school improvement strengthen the field of education research particularly in relation to education priorities in Manitoba.

I am pleased to provide this annual report for 2012 – 2013 on behalf of the Manitoba Education Research Network.

Respectfully submitted,

Heather Hunter, PhD
Director

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1. Preface

The Manitoba Education Research Network (MERN) collaborates on educational research events and activities related to schools and schooling in Manitoba. MERN sponsors include Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning, major education partner organizations, school divisions and the five faculties of education in the province.

Now in its ninth year of operation, the network has an established program of Manitoba-based research events and activities. These core functions are sustained on an annual basis while additional MERN initiatives are developed in response to evolving priorities, leadership directions and expanding knowledge base in the field.

2. Mandate

The Manitoba Education Research Network (MERN) supports liaison with deans of education in Manitoba universities, superintendents of school divisions and senior leaders in the education field regarding Manitoba-based research in education. MERN works to improve the quality of education in Manitoba through a collaborative effort on the part of Manitoba's five faculties of education, Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning, and its affiliated partner organizations.

3. Governance

3.1 MERN Deans Advisory Group

The MERN Deans Advisory Group members are the deans and associate deans of education faculties from Manitoba universities, along with the Deputy Minister of Education, and the Director of MERN (chair).

In 2012 – 2013:

John Anchon, A/Dean, University of Winnipeg
Glenn Cockerline, A/Dean Brandon University
Stefan Delaquis, Dean, Université de Saint-Boniface
Charlotte Enns, A/Associate Dean, University of Manitoba
Gerald Farthing, Deputy Minister, Manitoba Education
Alan Gardner, Dean, University College of the North
Heather Hunter, Director, Manitoba Education Research Network (Chair)
David Mandzuk, A/Dean, University of Manitoba
Jan Stewart, A/Associate Dean, University of Winnipeg

Members of the MERN Deans Advisory Group participate on the MERN Editorial Board along with Jon Young, Managing Editor, *MERN Monograph Series*.

3.2 MERN Affiliates Group

The MERN Affiliates Group members are the executive directors and senior leaders of major education partner organization and the Director of MERN (chair).

In 2012 – 2013:

Coralie Bryant (Dec/12), Ken Klassen (Jan/13), Executive Director, Manitoba Association of School Superintendents

Spencer Clements, Chair, Council of School Leaders of the Manitoba Teachers' Society

Sharon Conway, General Manager, Louis Riel Institute, Manitoba Metis Federation

Carolyn Duhamel, Executive Director, Manitoba School Boards Association

Heather Hunter, Director, Manitoba Education Research Network (Chair)

Lorne Keeper, Executive Director, Manitoba First Nations Education Resource Centre

Naomi Kruse, Executive Director, Manitoba Association of Parent Councils

Jayesh Manier, Chair, Manitoba Association of Supervision and Curriculum Development

Ken Pearce, General Secretary, Manitoba Teachers' Society

Helen Robinson-Settee, Director, Aboriginal Education Directorate

Roy Seidler, Executive Director, Manitoba Association of School Business Officials

Lesley Weisshaar, Executive Director, Manitoba School Improvement Program

James Wilson, Commissioner, Treaty Commission of Manitoba

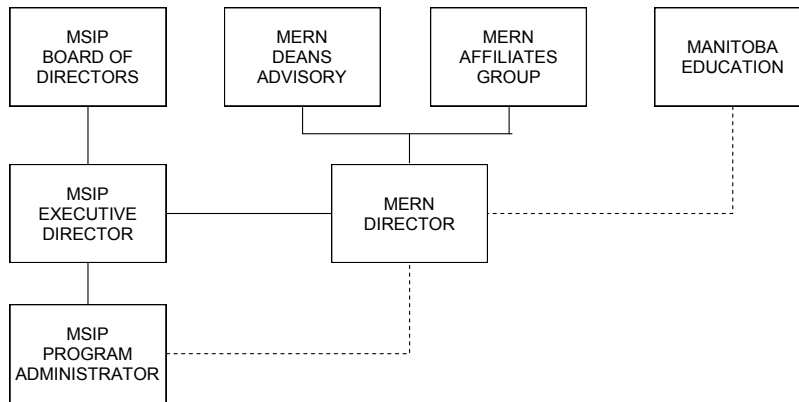
4. Responsibilities

The Manitoba Education Research Network serves public education by carrying out its responsibilities for:

- a) Facilitating a province-wide education research community,
- b) Increasing professional learning through inquiry,
- c) Creating opportunities for research connections across the field, and
- d) Supporting education priorities most relevant to Manitoba through collaborative research activities.

5. Organizational Chart

MERN - Organizational Chart



MERN Organizational Chart April 2012

6. Financial Information

Appendix A: 2012 – 2013 Manitoba School Improvement Audited Financial Statement (Note: PDF File – Draft document to be passed at MSIP AGM, November 2013)

7. Performance Reporting

The following table summarizes MERN activities for the 2012/13 reporting year:

PROGRAM AREA	2012 - 2013 ACTIVITIES	IMPACT/COMMENTS/RESOURCES
Governance		
	MERN Deans Advisory Group Spring Meeting – June 22, 2012 Fall Meeting – August 31, 2012	Location – University of Winnipeg (UW) Location – UW - CISCO
	MERN Affiliates Group Spring Meeting – June 28, 2012 Fall Meeting – August 30, 2012	Location – University of Manitoba (UM) Location – Manitoba School Improvement Program (MSIP)
Forums		
	Spring Forum – April 27, 2012 <i>“Educational Leadership: Doing the Right Thing”</i>	110 participants Facilities - UM Leads – Manitoba Association of School Superintendents (MASS), Council of School Leaders (COSL), UM
	Fall Forum – November 9, 2012 <i>“Equity in Education”</i>	90 participants Facilities – BU Leads – Manitoba Association of School Business Officials (MASBO), MSIP
	Winter Forum – January 25, 2013 <i>“C21: Revisioning Education”</i>	150 participants Videoconference Event Facilities – Frontier School Division Leads – Manitoba School Boards Association (MSBA), Manitoba Education

	Special Forum – “ <i>Inquiry into Mathematics Education</i> ” – March 15, 2013	105 participants Facilities – UM Leads – COSL, Manitoba Association for Supervision and Curriculum Development (MASCD)
Education Seminars		
	MERN Treaties and Reconciliation Education Seminar – “ <i>Beyond the Welcome Mat</i> ” – December 14, 2012	90 participants Facilities – MSIP Leads – Treaty Relations Commission of Manitoba (TRCM), Aboriginal Education Directorate (AED)
Luncheons at the Legislative Building		
	MERN Launch at the Leg – September 21, 2012 Monograph, Issue 5	60 participants Lead – Manitoba Education
	MERN Launch at the Leg – November 14, 2012 Inner City Education	50 participants Lead – MASS, MSBA
	MERN 3 rd Annual Awards Luncheon – June 14, 2012	80 participants Acknowledges efforts of individuals and organizations to enhance education in Manitoba by innovative, collaborative, and high quality work Lead – Manitoba Education and MERN Affiliates Group
Other		
	<i>Just Teacher</i> Forum – May 11, 2012	125 Participants MTS – Facilities Leads – Manitoba Teachers’ Society (MTS), MSIP
Website		
Website Development		Gerald Neufeld, Webmaster (Retired, BU Faculty)
Event Information	<i>Calendar of Events</i> for all partner activities Call for proposals, programs and abstracts posted	Visits to MERN site = 10, 821

Online Registration	Support for MERN Forums with online registration	Webmaster to develop more detailed system for online registration for tracking of registrant names, affiliations and session choices
Archives		<p>Visits to Journal page = 294</p> <p>Visits to Monograph page = 141</p> <p>Visits to Award Recipient page = 179</p> <p>Note: Visits to the Journal and Monograph pages are underestimated as only the visits to journal and publication lists page are counted. MERN publications are PDF files that can be downloaded directly and this kind of access is not included in the count.</p>
Publications		
<i>MERN Monograph Series</i>	<i>MERN Monograph, Issue 5 "Lost Prizes" launched</i>	<p>Jon Young, Editor (Professor, UM Faculty)</p> <p>Ken McCluskey, Author</p> <p>200 copies printed/posted online</p> <p>Bulk mailing to superintendents Manitoba Education and Advanced Learning – desktop and translation</p>
<i>The MERN Journal</i>	<i>The MERN Journal, Issue 5</i>	<p>Thomas MacNeill, Editor (Retired, BU Faculty)</p> <p>Launch – March 15, 2013</p>
MERN crc	<i>MERN crc – Issue 4, Issue 5</i>	Special science crc, Spring 2012
<i>MERN Researcher Profile</i>	Kevin Lamoureux, UW Marlene Atleo, UM	Published in <i>Education Manitoba</i>
MERN e-messages	Average 8 – 10 emails monthly to network members informing about calls for presentations, forum registration information, invitations, event programs and relevant research information.	Email is primary mechanism for network communication therefore it is important to maintain up to date contact information essential for network functioning.
MERN Editorial Board	Meetings twice yearly	Forms part of the MERN Deans Advisory Group meetings
MERN Occasional Paper	<i>"Manitoba Council for Leadership in Education:</i>	Jon VanWalleghem & Dawn Wallin, Authors; Jon Young, Editor

	<i>Fostering Leadership Excellence, 1990 – 2011”</i>	
Other		
	MERN Office 1G03B Graham Hall, Faculty of Education, University of Winnipeg	Opened June 2012
	MERN Indigenous Education Research Group established	Members: Marlene Atleo, Laara Fitznor, Frank Deer, Kevin Lamoureux, Sherry Peden, Laura Sims, David Anderson, Jamie Wilson, Lorne Keeper, Heather Hunter (chair)
	SSHRC Letter of Support for technology education project	Richard Hechter, et al, University of Manitoba - successful research grant application

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Date: October 27, 2013

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