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2005 Summer Meeting

Hotel & Registration Deadlines: May 19, 2005

Dear SDRME colleague:

This letter is your official invitation to the 2005 SDRME Summer Meeting. As you know from previous correspondence, the meeting will be held at **June 19 – 22, 2005** at the beautiful Semiahmoo Resort near Blaine, Washington.

Lodging. The hotel is holding a block of rooms at a discounted rate for our meeting until **May 19, 2005**, so please make your reservations by that date. Make your reservations directly with the hotel (800-278-7488). SDRME room rates start at \$132. After May 19, unused rooms in our block will be released and reservations will have to be made on a space-available basis.

Meeting Registration. The registration fee for meeting participants is \$245. This includes a welcoming reception on Sunday evening, breakfast Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday mornings, and a dinner Tuesday evening. Additional guests are welcome to attend the reception and/or dinner. There will be an additional cost of \$30 for the dinner. Reservations to attend these activities can be made at the time you register or when you arrive at the meeting. Please return your completed reservation form (attached) to Kristi Ferguson by **May 19, 2005**.

Meeting Program. The program takes into account the input we received in our pre-conference planning survey. We wish to thank those who took the time to respond. Here are some highlights:

- We plan to offer an advanced MERC workshop (<http://www.aamc.org/members/gea/rimebrochure.htm>) on Sunday afternoon prior to the business meeting. The workshop topic will be announced in the near future.
- We will start each morning with a session to promote self-reflection and renewal. In small groups, participants will share ideas on managing time, reducing stress, and managing careers, etc..
- Expanding the morning program until 1:00, we have planned a mix of presentations and topical discussions centered on the following themes:
 1. **"Making Practice Scholarship."** (Improving the Scholarship of Every day Practice) Sessions in this theme will focus on strategies we can employ to help faculty improve the scholarship and subsequent recognition of their routine educational contributions (e.g., teaching, course administration, etc.).
 2. **"What Works"** Sessions in this theme will each deal with a different topic we believe has untapped potential for participants related to our research or support functions. Topics will be new or enhanced methods for accomplishing historically difficult tasks for our respective offices (e.g., Appreciative Inquiry, Portfolios in Assessment, On-line Evaluation of Courses and Faculty).
 3. **"Beyond ANOVA—Statistical Procedures for the 21st Century"**: Sessions in this theme will feature statistical methods that participants probably wish they new more about for one reason or another (e.g., structural equation modeling, generalizability theory).

- Continuing with tradition, afternoons will remain open for networking and recreation. Group adventures will be planned for both Monday and Tuesday.
- Breaking a bit with tradition, we plan to offer evening sessions, including our annual dinner, scheduled for Tuesday evening. These evening sessions will give participants, additional opportunities for personal growth, networking, and involvement in national collaborative initiatives (i.e., team learning). There will also be a poster session with open invitation to all participants to share their recent research results.

Meeting Venue and Travel. The Semiahmoo Resort (<http://www.semiahmoo.com/hotel.asp>), is replete with vacation and recreational activities, including water sports, golfing, hiking, and more.

Travel to the Semiahmoo Resort can be made by air to three airports: Bellingham (BLI)—30 minutes away; Vancouver (YVR)—45 minutes away; or Seattle (SEA)—2.5 hours away. To give you an idea of airfare, on March 1, 2005, I found the following fares from Houston: ~\$500 to Bellingham, ~\$600 to Vancouver, and ~\$300-400 to Seattle. There are many ground transportation options available from each airport. I've attached a list of some of these options provided by the hotel. A mid-size car can be rented in Vancouver and Seattle for about \$120. We'll communicate with you nearer to the time of the conference about your travel plans to help coordinate ground transportation and keep travel costs down.

I look forward to seeing you in Semiahmoo in June. The executive committee believes that this meeting represents an opportunity to benefit from the wisdom of great colleagues in a beautiful location. In organizing the program this year, we have tried to balance work with recreation, but adding more learning opportunities than in previous meetings.

If you need to be on the program to obtain travel funds from your institution to attend, we invite you to plan to present a poster, or I invite you to contact me to arrange an alternative way for you to get involved.

Sincerely,

Boyd Richards, PhD
Chair Elect SDRME Executive Committee