Gutiérrez, López, Finnigan Honored

Three NEPC Fellows have been honored in recent months for accomplishments related to their research.

At its annual meeting held earlier this month, the American Educational Research Association (AERA) awarded Kris D. Gutiérrez the 2024 Distinguished Contributions to Research in Education Award. The award is the organization’s premier acknowledgment of outstanding achievement and success in education research. Gutiérrez is Professor of Language, Literacy and Culture at the University of California Berkeley. Her areas of expertise include literacy, learning sciences, and interpretive and design-based approaches to inquiry.

At the same meeting, AERA awarded Francesca López the 2024 Scholars of Color in Education Mid-Career Contribution Award. The award is presented to a mid-career scholar who has made significant contributions to the understanding of issues that affect minority populations, and to minority scholars who have made a contribution to education research and development. López is the Waterbury Chair in Equity Pedagogy in Penn State University’s College of Education. She studies ways in which educational settings impact outcomes for youth who have been marginalized.

AERA is the nation’s largest professional organization for academic researchers who study education.

The National Academy of Education is an organization that supports the usage of high-qual-
ity education research to inform policy and practice. Members are researchers and leaders who are selected for their career-long contributions to the field.

In March, NEPC Fellow Kara Finnigan was selected for this honor by existing Academy members. Finnigan is a professor of education at the University of Michigan’s School of Education. Her areas of expertise include connections between housing and education, high-stakes accountability, district reform, principal leadership and school choice.

Finnigan’s election brings to 26 the number of NEPC Fellows who are Academy members.

Other Fellows who are members of the Academy, in addition to Finnigan and Kris Gutiérrez, are Alfredo J. Artiles of Stanford University, W. Steven Barnett of the Graduate School of Education at Rutgers University, David Berliner of Arizona State University, Bryan McKinley Jones Brayboy of Northwestern University, Prudence Carter of Brown University, Marilyn Cochran-Smith of Boston College, Ruben Donato of the University of Colorado Boulder, Margaret Eisenhart of the University of Colorado Boulder, Patricia Gándara of the University of California, Los Angeles, Shaun Harper of the University of Southern California, Michal Kurlaender of the University of California, Davis, Gloria Ladson-Billings of the University of Wisconsin at Madison, Roslyn Arlin Mickelson of the University of North Carolina at Charlotte, H. Richard Milner IV of Vanderbilt University, Elizabeth Birr Moje of the University of Michigan, Jeannie Oakes of the University of California Los Angeles, William Penuel of the University of Colorado Boulder, Christine Sleeter of California State University Monterey Bay, William Tate and Louisiana State University, Karolyn Tyson of Georgetown University, Angela Valenzuela of the University of Texas Austin, Amy Stuart Wells of the Bank Street College of Education, and Ken Zeichner of the University of Washington Seattle.

NEPC Fellows are selected on the basis of the quality of their research and efforts at public scholarship.

This newsletter is made possible in part by support provided by the Great Lakes Center for Education Research and Practice: [http://www.greatlakescenter.org](http://www.greatlakescenter.org)

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