Assessment, Research and Evaluation Colloquium

EFFORTS TO TEACH IN A WAY THAT TESTS CAN DETECT: POINTLESS OR PROFITABLE?

Presenter:
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Chair:
Dr. Mary Yakimowski, University of Connecticut’s Neag School of Education

Date/Time/Logistics
Date: Friday, October 21, 2011; 9:00-11:00 AM
Hartford Marriott Rocky Hill, Salon III; Rocky Hill, CT

Please pre-register at: http://www.education.uconn.edu/assessment/
There is a $25 cost (payable to NERA) for this session.

Registration and Fees
If you registered for the 2011 NERA Conference, this session is free (see www.nera-education.org). Otherwise, it will be a fee of $25 payable to NERA. (Upon your arrival, please go to the NERA registration desk at the Rocky Hill Marriott and present a check. Sorry, no MOs.)

Session Description

Educators and test developers have engaged in a lengthy debate about tests’ ability to detect instructional efforts. While measurement specialists take the position that tests are sensitive enough to detect skills and understandings presented in a variety of ways teachers have posited that they must teach students similarly to the way that items are presented on tests. This presentation gives an overview of the field of instructional sensitivity, which is concerned with a tests’ ability to detect instructional efforts and shares the results from a series of studies conducted in one school district that show that efforts to "teach to the test" may not lead to improved performance.

As a result of their attendance at this session, participants will:

• Increase their understanding of the field of instructional sensitivity
• Identify key issues surrounding the debate about tests’ abilities to detect instructional efforts
• Describe how these issues apply to the results of a series of school district studies

This is an invited session at the Northeastern Educational Research Association (NERA) offered by the University of Connecticut’s Neag School of Education and the NERA Ad Hoc Committee for The State & District Consumers of Educational Research.

Registration
For more information, and to register for NERA’s 42nd annual conference, please visit www.nera-education.org