

Mary Pat Wenderoth Lectureship Award 2026 Call for Nominations

We are pleased to announce the call soliciting nominations for the Mary Pat Wenderoth Invited Plenary at the 2026 SABER Annual Meeting. Mary Pat Wenderoth is the visionary leader who conceptualized, co-founded, and led the SABER organization for its first 10 years; the organization would not exist without Mary Pat's leadership and tireless efforts to advance biology education research (BER).

Envisioned as a mechanism to honor and learn from senior scholars in BER, this invited research plenary is intended to be delivered by an individual who has been an active member of the SABER community and has made significant and sustained contributions to the field of BER. The lectureship will be a one-hour session showcasing the awardee's research program and will take place during the SABER Annual Conference. Awardees receive a \$1000 honorarium and a travel stipend to attend the SABER conference. The MPW Lectureship will not count towards the Annual Conference's limit of 3 talks per research group.

Details on the Mary Pat Wenderoth Lectureship and instructions for nomination:

Criteria to be eligible for the Wenderoth Invited Plenary:

- Demonstrated activity in the SABER community for at least 10 years (e.g., attended meetings and/or had trainees attend meetings, reviewed abstracts, served on committees).
- Full professor (tenure or teaching track), senior Associate Professor (tenure or teaching track), or equivalent, as indicated by the fact that they have done independent education research (excluding their graduate and postdoctoral work) that has impacted the field of biology education beyond their own course or institution for at least 10 years.
- Publication of at least 1 peer-reviewed research paper that has contributed to the biology education research community within the last three years before submitting the nomination.
- Able to attend the national SABER meeting in person and present a research plenary that summarizes multiple related research studies that they have conducted over many years.
- Can submit a 1 page talk abstract that will be used to advertise the plenary talk that summarizes what they will present and references at least three of their peer-reviewed publications that have impact beyond their own course or institution
- Nominated by a current SABER member (can be a self-nomination).
- The nominee has not given a long talk in the 2 years before giving the lectureship.
- Not a current member of the selection committee.

Selection process:

- If all seven criteria are met, the nominee is entered into the lottery pool for an opportunity to be randomly selected for the Lectureship. The nominee will remain in the lottery pool for three years unless they accept the award or request to be removed. In keeping with SABER's Mission, Goals, and values, the approach of randomly selecting a winner from the pool of eligible candidates based on established criteria is being utilized in an effort to minimize bias, nepotism, and conflicts of interest that could affect the selection of the award winner when using other selection strategies.

- Every year, there will be a call for new nominations. Anyone who met the criteria in the previous three years will be contacted to determine if they want their nomination packet to remain in the pool of eligible candidates. After three years, nominees not selected for the award must reapply to be re-entered into the lottery.
- Once someone has been selected as a Wenderoth Plenary speaker, they are not eligible to apply for the award.
- If the randomly selected presumptive award winner cannot attend the Annual Conference and accept the award, that nominee will have the option to remain in the pool for future lotteries for three years and a different award winner will be randomly selected from the remaining pool of eligible nominees.

Nomination materials: Due by January 31 and submitted [here](#).

- Submission of a written talk abstract (maximum 1 page) highlighting the focus of the research plenary talk, referencing at least three of their peer-reviewed publications that demonstrate an impact beyond their own course or institution.
- Summary (maximum 2 pages) of relevant publications and contributions to SABER; can be bulleted or in written form.