

The Henry H. Villard Research Award
2008 Recipient
Stephen Buckles, Ph.D.
Vanderbilt University

The Henry H. Villard Research Award was established to encourage and recognize outstanding contributions in economic education research. As a faculty member at City University of New York, Villard was co-founder and first editor of *The Journal of Economic Education*. His contributions to early research in the discipline were notable and set the tone and pace for later research.

A career of continuing influential research makes Steve Buckles this year's Henry H. Villard Research Award honoree. For many of his colleagues, his accomplishments as President of the National Council on Economic Education from 1989-1994 or president of the National Association of Economic Educators come to mind. Others may remember that he was president of the Missouri Council on Economic Education and director of the Center for Economic Education at University of Missouri-Columbia. Over the span of 35 years, Steve has been a hard working, dedicated, and highly respected researcher. His imprint is clearly planted on economic education research, especially in the area of assessment.

Today most of us cannot imagine a time when learning theory did not find its way into a body of economic education research. However, it was Steve's initial article published in the *Journal of Economic Education* in 1971 that brought the connection between learning theory and economics to the forefront among traditional economists. "Further Evidence on the Value of Lectures in Elementary Economics," with Marshall McMahon provided early validation for the work of NAEE and the NCEE. With his subsequent pedagogical research, Steve had an impact on the teaching of economics. Evidenced by his many university teaching awards coupled with his research, Steve effectively highlighted the relationship between research and teaching.

Another of Steve's research themes is captured in his article with John Morton, "The Effects of Advanced Placement on College Introductory Economic Courses," which appeared in the *American Economic Review* in 1988. It is his most cited work. This article provided a foundation for studies on the effect of teacher training on student understanding of economics.

While Steve's works include an array of curriculum guides, textbooks, and chapters, his most influential research may well be his work in the area of assessment. His first article on assessment was in 1972 when he and Art Welsh wrote "The Use of Validated Tests in Teaching and Research," included in *Research Papers in Economic Education*. With numerous works on assessment as his credential, now serves as content expert in economics for National Assessment on Educational Progress. The analysis of the NAEP data is of utmost importance to economic education. Thankfully, forthcoming articles means Steve doesn't plan to slow down any time soon.

For his contributions to economic education research, we honor Steve Buckles with the 2008 Henry H. Villard Research Award.