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Editorial

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EDITORIAL

Letter from Assistant Director of Service-Learning Dr. Margaret Shu-Mei Sass

It is with great excitement I introduce the first issue of the *Purdue Journal of Service-Learning and International Engagement (PJSL)*, an online and print magazine that highlights service-learning in the most articulate and reflective process. *PJSL*, a multi-disciplinary Open Access journal, is dedicated to students who conduct

projects with strong service-learning and academic civic engagement aspects. By involving students in an intensive writing activity and showcasing the opportunities available at Purdue, the journal will enhance the use and effectiveness of the pedagogy of service-learning as a high-impact learning methodology. With our first issue now in press, it astounds me the impact these students have made on our communities, and continue to make.

Service-learning, also known as community-based learning and academic community engagement, is an educational pedagogy with the purpose of engaging students with course material in most experiential way. Service-learning provides a platform for students to enhance their critical thinking skills, communication skills, teamwork skills, and problem-solving abilities, which are just a few of many student outcomes. Forming the relationship between community service and academia creates a more thoughtful and reflective student in whom we hope to inspire continual civic engagement and lifelong learner behavior. At Purdue, we encourage students to participate within their communities and to be intentionally impactful with their education.

PJSL is open to all Purdue students, who can submit annually to the magazine. If the student's proposal is accepted, he or she is matched with a faculty mentor who helps him or her with the publication process. The mentors are well-established professors that are dedicated to student growth and achievement. Students have the opportunity to showcase their academic and civic engagement while developing stronger critical thinking and literary skills.

Though this is our first publication, we are establishing a continual and significant impact on student engagement through service-learning and through the process of writing about those experiences. We are dedicated to improving this journal every year, while advocating and promoting even more service-learning activity on Purdue's Indiana campuses. A special thanks goes to our devoted and dedicated Advisory Board, consisting of: Lalatendu Archarya, Consumer Sciences and Retailing; Jennifer Bay, English; Wei Hong, Applied Linguistics; Christine Jackson, Management; Joann Phillion, Curriculum Studies; and Jason Ware, Education, Curriculum and Instruction.

Also, with sincere gratitude I thank our Assistant Editor Mackenzie Martin, for reaching out to students and assisting with the publication process.

We hope you enjoy reading our first issue and continue to read additional issues. We also encourage students to submit proposals on service-learning snapshots, projects, reflections, and interviews, as we believe your commitment to service-learning and academic community engagement needs to be publicized and showcased. Thank you for reading, and we look forward to seeing the service-learning projects throughout the year.