EDITORIAL

Letter from the Associate Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs, Dr. Frank J. Dooley

As an institution, Purdue University applauds accomplishments in research, teaching, and engagement. The *Journal of Purdue Undergraduate Research (JPUR)* is becoming an important exemplar of our ability to bring together these three missions. With the fourth edition, it is time to pause to thank two groups, our students and faculty,

as well as two individuals, Dale Whittaker and Charles Watkinson, for their contributions in helping launch *JPUR*.

The first group to be recognized is the student researchers, whose ideas and effort form the work product necessary for the journal. In addition, the student editorial board deals with the considerable effort required in bringing papers to publication. As President Córdova noted in the inaugural issue, unless we communicate our research, it will have little impact. *JPUR* was created to highlight the important work being done by undergraduate researchers, and they have responded. The future likely will see even more undergraduate research across campus—from Discovery Park to our departments—in combination with the expectations of the new Honors College. This will make the choices of the student editorial board even more difficult in the future.

While the final product reflects the considerable intellect and effort of our undergraduate students, their talents were nurtured by our faculty. Indeed without the selfless giving of time and feedback by the faculty advisors, most

of this work would simply be another term paper, project, or poster. The faculty advisors challenge their students to define a problem, consider their hypotheses and methods, and perhaps most importantly, edit their work. A campus-wide growth in undergraduate research will require that we reconsider how we acknowledge and recognize the faculty contributions necessary to support these endeavors.

Two individuals key to *JPUR*'s birth are moving on from Purdue, and they merit special thanks. Dale Whittaker, Vice Provost for Undergraduate Academic Affairs, will become Provost at the University of Central Florida, while Charles Watkinson, Director of the Purdue University Press, will move his talents to the University of Michigan Press. Combined, their vision, energy, and belief in the talents of Purdue undergraduate students and faculty have provided the springboard for *JPUR*.

Most likely, few of the faculty are shocked by the finding of the Purdue Gallup survey that the completion of long-term projects leads to greater outcomes for students. An emphasis on deeper learning by our undergraduates will prepare them for professional school, graduate school, or the workplace.

Thus, going forward, it is important that the campus realize Purdue continues its commitment to *JPUR* and the undergraduate work that supports the journal. We must remind ourselves that the handful of articles selected for *JPUR* reflect a portfolio of efforts among students across our comprehensive research university. *JPUR* will continue to communicate to the world what our undergraduate student researchers have learned, and the journal will serve as a repository of this learning.

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