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Editorial

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EDITORIAL

Letter from the Editor, Director and Clinical Associate Professor Dr. Patricia L. Darbshire

Greetings to our *Purdue Journal of Service-Learning and International Engagement* (*PJSL*) readership. Once again, it has been a productive and positive year for the journal and the editorial board. A shout-out to our board members who work so diligently throughout the year to move the journal forward. We appreciate the contributions of the 2016

student authors, their writing mentors, and all those who support the students' efforts. A published article in *PJSL* is a powerful way to demonstrate the impact that our students and their mentors make every day in our local and global communities. I also want to recognize the continued support provided by the Center for Instructional Excellence and the Purdue Office of Engagement that makes this journal a reality.

This year we welcome a new student member to our editorial board, Quynh Nguyen. Quynh recently completed her pre-pharmacy coursework at Purdue and was accepted to the professional pharmacy program at the Purdue College of Pharmacy beginning August 2017. Quynh hails from Hanoi, Vietnam. She has been an enthusiastic student author in the past and a role model to her peers who wish to write about their community experiences in the journal. We look forward to working with you, Quynh.

For those new to *PJSL*, our journal is dedicated to providing a forum in which current and former Purdue students share their service-learning, civic engagement, and global learning experiences through scholarly work. We accept abstract proposals on a rolling basis

and welcome student authors who have never before formally written an article for publication. Their writing process is supported by an assigned writing mentor. To begin, students should review the website for author guidance and submit a short abstract proposal describing their content. The editors review abstract proposals for alignment with the *PJSL* mission, and students are notified as to whether they may move forward in the writing process. There are four submission types, which include reflective essays, community partner snapshots, profile interviews, and our most recent submission type, research with reflection. Students work within a mentored, iterative framework of feedback and editing. The complete draft undergoes a formal review process by one or more members of our team of reviewers prior to publication. We also encourage students to continue to disseminate their work through various presentation opportunities on campus and beyond.

This year we made additional enhancements to the journal website, streamlined the electronic abstract submissions process, and developed more structured guidelines and formatting procedures for each submission type. More rigorous submissions and an increasing submission rate are reflective of these changes.

We encourage all Purdue instructors engaged in service-learning to inspire their students to write about their experiences and volunteer as a writing mentor or reviewer for our student authors' work. *PJSL* strives to strengthen relationships between students, instructors, and community partners. We believe, through this opportunity, instructors can facilitate the development of students' academic and interpersonal knowledge and skills. Please partner with us as we advance dissemination of scholarship about service and learning. The *PJSL* editorial board wishes everyone another successful year. Boiler up!