Editor’s Introduction

Krista Glazewski

*Indiana University - Bloomington, glaze@indiana.edu*

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In this issue, we feature a special guest-edited edition by Liz Bergeron, Drew Schrader, and Kris Williams that looks closely at the role of assessment in problem- and project-based learning (PBL and PjBL, respectively). This special issue originated because of the editors’ work within the New Tech Network (NTN), and they considered the persistent questions of assessment in the context of PjBL. The papers foreground many of the intricate and complex considerations that occur when trying to engage ambitious classroom pedagogies that do not always fit neatly into expectations fueled by standardized testing and political accountability efforts. “Can we do this?” is a relevant question PBL and PjBL, and the answer hinges, at least in part, on meeting assessment expectations. The research papers assembled here not only surface some insight into this question, but provide rich examples of how it can be done.

Some Changes at IJPBL

In the spring of 2019, we said good-bye to two of our board members, Lisette Wijnia and Bee Leng Chua, who completed their three-year tenure on the board. We owe them many thanks for their service to IJPBL. We also welcomed two new members, Nada Dabbagh and Stefanie Y. L. Chye. Both have embraced their terms and the accompanying work with enthusiasm, and we are lucky to have them on board.

And Another Big Change: IJPBL is Moving

Another big change is on the horizon for IJPBL: we are moving publishers from Purdue University Press to IU Scholarworks under the administration of Indiana University Press. This reflects a change that we ultimately think will be very good for the journal as we seek to continue to support our open access model of providing one of the main international outlets for problem-, inquiry-, project-, and case-based learning. We hope that authors and readers will not experience too much difficulty during our transition. Our response times during review and decision may be slower, which some of you have already experienced, but our commitment to this work and community remains as strong as ever! Once the transition is finalized by the end of 2019, you will find our URL (http://ijpbl.org) will point you directly to the new site. In the meantime, you can find us at the new page through this direct link: https://scholarworks.iu.edu/journals/index.php/ijpbl. If your paper is currently under review or in process, that will not change, and we will handle the transition from our end. If you would like to make a new submission, please do so via the new link at IU Scholarworks.

Our Gratitude to Purdue University Press

It is difficult to quantify the amount of support and sponsorship we have received from Purdue University Press over the past 13 years of publication with them. They have been a champion of open access generally and IJPBL specifically from the start, for which we have benefited tremendously. People often ask me, often skeptically, what the costs are of producing a journal if all of the labor such as authoring and reviewing is essentially donated. And in fact, it is difficult to imagine if we are not working in publishing what those costs may be. I do not know myself, but what I do know is that publication of a high-quality journal does not come for free. It involves subscription fees, copy editing, production work, project management, workflow support, and a number of other production costs that are not visible to authors, reviewers, and readers. It is probably a lot like many things in life: it is an easy thing to do badly but anything done well is costly. In our case, the costs of IJPBL has been underwritten by Purdue Press for over a decade, and while we do not see all of the costs, we do reap a number of benefits from their support, such as widespread reach, international readership,
and high placement in the metrics we track. So, I extend a special thanks to Purdue for all their support, and would particularly like to recognize the current director of Purdue Press, Justin Race, for his ongoing supportive efforts, particularly in helping make a smooth transition to our new home.

Finally, I would like to give a special call-out to Katherine Purple, who serves as editorial, design, and production manager at Purdue Press. None of you have ever met her, but trust me when I say she is an unsung hero of IJPBL. She has been with IJPBL since the inception, helping with behind-the-scenes project management, production, and growth. She has been a sounding board and a collaborator in every sense of the word. It is hard to imagine what our experience will be like without having her to rely on, but what I do know is that our job as editors is about to become a lot more difficult. Thank you, Katherine, for all of your hard and often unseen work, and thank you for championing IJPBL.