Editor's Introduction

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When IJPBL launched in 2006, we described our commitment to “publishing articles that fall under the broad umbrella of problem-based methods including project-based learning, case-based instruction, inquiry learning, and so on” (p. 4). Issue 5(2) is a strong example of how this commitment is translated into practice. Among the articles included in this issue is one that implemented a graduate-level studio-based design course (Cennamo et al.), another that used a project-based learning approach in an eighth grade geography class (Grant), and one that used a modified technology-oriented problem-based professional development model with inservice teachers (Walker et al.). In addition to these three featured articles, we also include an invited article by David Jonassen, one of founding members of the IJPBL editorial board. While David challenges us to consider how to support learners’ cognitive needs, specifically within problem-based learning environments (PBLEs), his suggestions are likely to apply to these other types of problem-solving environments (e.g., studio-based, project-based, etc.) as well.

The inclusion of these varied articles also serves as a powerful tribute to the wide-ranging influence that Howard Barrows, the founding father of PBL, has had on the development of these types of student-centered, open-learning environments. Sadly, Howard passed away this past March. In this issue, Cindy Hmelo-Silver offers a moving reflection (“In Memoriam”) on his influence, not only on her own career, but on the field as a whole. In addition, we include a Call for Manuscripts for a special issue, edited by Drs. Walker, Leary, and Hmelo-Silver, which will honor the many research traditions associated with Howard S. Barrows.

Finally, we’d like to extend a formal welcome to our new board members, Jason Ravitz and Andy Walker, as well as our new book review co-editor, Deniz Eseryel, who will be working with Johannes Strobel, on this section of our journal. We offer our sincere thanks to those board members who have just completed their terms: Cindy Hmelo-Silver, David Jonassen, and Johannes Strobel.
References