

## From the Editor ...

### Thank you, Lorilee Sandmann



Each year, the *JHEOE* editorial team prepares an annual report for our editorial board and partners that provides an overview of the publication—a sort of “state of the *Journal*,” if you will. There is much that goes on behind the scenes to produce four issues of *JHEOE* each year, and as the editorial team wraps up another year of publication, I am particularly reflective about the *Journal’s* accomplishments due to some forthcoming changes in our operations and management. So, I must begin by thanking my co-editor Lorilee Sandmann, who will be stepping down from her editorship at the end of this calendar year. This entire issue is dedicated to Lorilee and her many contributions to the *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement*.

Looking through the *JHEOE* archives over the last 21 years is like looking through a time capsule that captures pivotal moments, ideas, and theories that have shaped the engagement field. Preserved in the pages are the voices of important scholars whose ideas have shaped our understanding of the role of engaged scholarship in higher education. Among those voices, you will frequently find the scholarly contributions of my co-editor and mentor Lorilee Sandmann. Lorilee’s scholarly contributions are well known and oft-cited by engaged scholars, and her work has been published in *JHEOE* numerous times. As editor over the last three years, she has also been an advocate and champion for our authors, editorial board members, and the emerging scholars who have received significant time and attention from her as they work to develop their research. On behalf of the editorial team and editorial board, I congratulate Lorilee for her fine leadership of *JHEOE* and particularly thank her for her mentorship, scholarship, and the care she has taken with the *Journal* and its many constituents.

As we look at the state of *JHEOE*, it remains a strong, vibrant, and relevant publication that has attracted new audiences and scholarly voices under Lorilee’s leadership, and we are indebted to her. This September, the *Journal’s* annual report highlights that

over the last year, *JHEOE* received 191 submissions with an eventual acceptance rate of 17 percent. This represents a staggering 51 percent submission increase over last year. Articles from these four issues have been viewed a total of 8,700 times and downloaded 5,219 times from the *JHEOE* website.

Founded and published by the University of Georgia (UGA) continuously since 1996, the *Journal* still receives tremendous institutional support. However, under Lorilee's leadership, the UGA partnership has expanded to include Public Service and Outreach, UGA Extension, the College of Education, and the Institute of Higher Education, a remarkable example of collaboration and interdisciplinary support for this publication in a time when support for journals has become increasingly difficult. In addition, the *Journal* gained new sponsors with Campus Compact and the Engagement Scholarship Consortium (ESC). *JHEOE* along with the *Journal of Community Engagement and Scholarship (JCES)* has become the official journal of ESC, and our journals take turns preparing the ESC Special Issue each year. *JHEOE's* volume 22, issue 3 is slated for release in September 2018 and will feature the ESC Special Issue focused on best practices in community engaged scholarship with guest editors Chippewa Thomas and Ralph Foster from Auburn University. These kinds of fruitful collaborations and partnerships are something that Lorilee has emphasized during her editorship.

Currently, *JHEOE* is supported by five Associate Editors, 34 members of the Editorial Review Board, two Managing Editors, and a large pool of guest reviewers and peer-reviewers. As we grapple with such a rapid increase in submissions, we thank our team of associate editors who so brilliantly curate the manuscripts that authors entrust to us, and also thank our reviewers who—any editor will tell you—are one of the most essential components of the publication process. Without quality peer reviews, every manuscript that is eventually published in *JHEOE*, and those that also go on to find homes in other journals, would be significantly diminished in terms of quality. Thanks to Lorilee's attention, *JHEOE* has increased support for reviewers, expanded our pool of reviewers to accommodate the similarly expanded diversity of our submissions, engaged our editorial board in the reviewing process, and in the coming year will roll out a webinar on the scholarship of reviewing authored and presented by Lorilee and other scholars.

Those who have had the privilege of working with Lorilee know that her entire academic career has been devoted to advancing outreach and engagement in higher education, and that she has made enduring contributions that have shaped support for engagement

on many campuses and helped articulate how critical it is for the future of higher education. Her contributions as a scholar, faculty member, consultant, mentor to emerging scholars, and thought leader continue to move our field forward, and she has been a tireless advocate for the important role engaged scholars play in higher education.

Her leadership of *JHEOE* has been equally impressive. During her editorship, she has worked tirelessly to raise the profile of *JHEOE*, expanded access and interest internationally, forged new partnerships, raised standards for reviewing, streamlined the publication process, and helmed the *Journal's* 20th anniversary issue and celebration. She is currently working on a forthcoming edited book based on that 20th anniversary issue.

Behind the scenes, Lorilee has led our editorial team with professionalism and creativity, and has set high standards for not only the scholarship that *JHEOE* publishes, but also the supportive, respectful, and conscientious manner in which we strive to interact with authors, reviewers, and editorial board members. As I have learned from Lorilee over the last year, the role of an editor is similar to a gardener who must tend her plots with care, consistency, and expertise to ensure a healthy harvest.

As a result, this closing issue of *JHEOE* for 2017—and Lorilee's final issue as co-editor—can only be described as a bountiful harvest of scholarship that explores community engagement and engaged scholarship across a diverse spectrum of practices, methods, and contexts. Such a fruitful harvest is a direct result of Lorilee's care and tending of the *Journal* as a place where engaged scholarship and engaged scholars are nurtured and subsequently flourish. We thank you, Lorilee—our master gardener—for your care and tending of our ideas, knowledge, and voices, and for planting so many seeds through your scholarship and leadership that will continue to bear fruit in year to come.

With best regards,  
*Shannon O'Brien Wilder*  
Editor

