

A Note from the Editor ...

“... Yet knowing how way leads on to way,
I doubted if I should ever come back ...”

In “The Road Not Taken,” Robert Frost paints a poignant picture of “other choices” and makes us nostalgic for what might have been. But the idea of “way leading on to way” certainly applies in other contexts, and this issue is a case in point.

When Dr. Paula Dressel, a former editorial board member and then Professor of Sociology at Georgia State University on leave to the Annie E. Casey Foundation, first contacted me in April 2003 about the possibility of the Foundation supporting a special issue of the journal on the theme of “Universities as Economic Anchors and Engines, But With Attention to Communities Within,” I was pleased and flattered. This seemed like an excellent idea, and one that would allow the journal to reach a new audience on an important and timely topic. It also led me to find Dr. David Maurrasse, then Adjunct Professor at Columbia University and author of *Beyond the Campus: How Universities and Colleges Partner with Their Communities*, who agreed to serve as guest editor of the special issue. The Spring/Summer 2005 issue of the journal (Volume 10, Number 2) included nine articles on a variety of topics related to the university’s responsibility to ensure that economic development includes the neighborhood as well as the state and nation.

As the special issue worked its way to the printer, David asked me if we might have any interest in working on another special issue of the journal on a topic of importance to the Foundation, namely, how historically black colleges and universities relate to their communities. Again, this seemed like an excellent idea, and one that would allow us to reach new audiences on another important and timely topic. David suggested that Susan Batten, a senior associate at the Foundation, would be the perfect guest editor for this issue, and he was right. Susan has put shoulder to the wheel for this issue, identifying prospective authors, soliciting and reviewing manuscripts, and generally overseeing the compilation of the articles appearing here.

On behalf of the editorial board, I would like to extend a formal note of thanks once again to the Annie E. Casey Foundation for its faith in the Journal and its support of this issue. In addition to allowing Susan to devote a good bit of her time to this project, it has provided financial assistance for the editing and printing of this issue. We hope that it will contribute positively to the public discourse on the role of historically black institutions in our society and the ways in which they have engaged with their communities in raising public consciousness.

I can hardly wait to see what “way” we are heading next!

Best,
Melvin B. Hill, Jr., Editor