

## ***A Note From the Guest Editor . . .***

The essence of engagement is respect, reciprocity, and mutual benefit between campus and community. It is about engaging campus and community. The articles in this special issue of the *Journal of Higher Education Outreach and Engagement* reflect these core engagement principles. In addition to emphasizing these principles, the articles by Penn State president Graham Spanier and by University of Maryland Baltimore County president Freeman Hrabowski, along with Penn State vice president for outreach Craig Weidemann, also speak to the sobering challenges of achieving the promise of engagement in higher education and our communities today and in the future.

Moving the engagement agenda forward in a positive and productive way requires increased appreciation for the widespread existence and impressive breadth and depth of engaged scholarship across our universities, along with a more pluralistic view of what constitutes scholarly work; better understanding of how to practice engaged scholarship, or the scholarship of engagement; and establishment of serious and substantive organizational and faculty-staff development initiatives that provide supportive enabling settings for engagement as scholarly work. The articles in this special issue, through the specific, grounded stories they tell, touch on these critical issues.

These articles are drawn from presentations given at the National Outreach Scholarship Conference, "Impact through Engagement: Engaging Communities and Changing Lives," held at Penn State University October 3–5, 2004. They were selected for inclusion in the *Journal* based on the outcome of a blind peer review process. I hope you find these articles of interest and value, and that they stimulate your thinking about engaged scholarship and its practice.

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