

Welcome Letter from Vice Chancellor James J. Zuiches, host of the 2010 National Outreach Scholarship Conference, Raleigh, North Carolina.

“Sustaining Authentic Engagement” was the theme of the 11th Annual National Outreach Scholarship Conference held in Raleigh, North Carolina. This issue of the *Journal* focuses on the papers, presentations, and discussion that demonstrated the scholarship resulting from such authentic engagement and partnerships. North Carolina State University was delighted to host the National Outreach Scholarship Conference and to present these exemplary articles from the conference.

Characteristics of sustained engagement are found in programs that reflect collaborative, reciprocal, and scholarly work, and build the capacities of all partners. The call for papers asked participants to focus on communities of place, practice, and purpose, and over 600 participants from 83 universities participated. The people served by these universities and partnering in these programs were represented by over 50 students and over 100 community partners. Over one third were first-time participants. Many of the presentations discussed the processes used to create the successful partnerships. The core philosophies and values reflected in the programs are the tenants of democratic processes, collaborative leadership, and mutual respect.

In addition to the National Conference, the 2010 C. Peter Magrath Community Engagement Award recipient and the 2010 Outreach Scholarship W.K. Kellogg Foundation Engagement Award recipients were highlighted and recognized. The Emerging Engagement Scholars workshop provided 20 young scholars with opportunities to learn about professional development, engagement practices, and publications. Finally, the University of North Carolina system provided an example from each of the 17 constituent institutions of community engagement in response to the UNC Tomorrow initiative of President Erskine Bowles. The citizens of the state had challenged the campuses to be more engaged locally, and each campus responded.

Learning from one another, demonstrating successful models of university and community engagement, exploring methodologies for developing productive partnerships, and demonstrating how valuing people and their unique communities positively

influences the outcomes – all resulted in a positive experience for participants.

The papers in this issue reflect only a small component of the breadth of work incorporated into the National Outreach Scholarship Conference. I invite you to read these papers and discover how the moral dimensions of the university are demonstrated in different contexts as they address many significant societal issues.

Our special thanks to the 16 university partners at the time of the 2010 National Outreach Scholarship Conference, whose faculty provided the substantive core of the participation and whose funding helps underwrite the costs of the conference. I also want to thank the national implementation team, and especially the North Carolina State Conference Leadership team, who took on the task of organizing the conference out of a commitment to the mission of engagement and scholarship.

James J. Zuiches is currently Vice Chancellor for Extension, Engagement, and Economic Development at North Carolina State University. He earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy and sociology from the University of Portland, and his master's degree and Ph.D. in sociology from the University of Wisconsin, Madison.