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# Introduction to the Kentucky Journal of Higher Education Policy and Practice

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Welcome to the *Kentucky Journal of Higher Education Policy and Practice* (KJHPP). With the launch of this journal, we seek to provide a forum for scholarly and practitioner discourse related to postsecondary education in Kentucky and the surrounding region. In addition to a state and regional focus as part of the journal's mission, the KJHPP also welcomes scholarship on higher education topics of national and international interest that deals with a variety of issues related to higher education policy, practice, and research.

An exciting facet of the journal involves its open access format. Through a partnership with and support from the University of Kentucky Libraries, the journal is hosted by Digital Commons. Use of Digital Commons provides indexing and support services that means that the scholarship contained in the KJHPP will be disseminated through multiple search venues, including Google Scholar and academic search databases. Accordingly, the pieces published in the journal will be widely available to scholars and practitioners at no charge. The publishing format for the journal means that it is on the leading edge of the open access movement and will allow us to make the scholarship appearing in the journal widely available to scholars and practitioners.

Another important aspect of the journal is its emphasis on gaining partners from around the state of Kentucky. For the launch of the journal, we have faculty and student editors from the University of Louisville and the University of Kentucky, and we hope to add partners from other institutions as the journal evolves. Thus, an important purpose of the journal is to help foster collaboration and discussion among higher education institutions throughout the Commonwealth. As part of this endeavor, we are especially

excited to incorporate student editors into the copyediting and journal production and planning process along with publishing student work.

Based on the goals of the journal, its content will be characterized by several types of submissions. One group of submissions and publications includes peer-reviewed articles and commentaries or essays that can have a geographical focus that spans all the way from Kentucky or the surrounding region to topics of interest at the national or international levels. The journal will also accept book reviews that are not limited to a particular state or regional focus.

Another important part of the KJHPP will be its practitioner briefs, which will be shorter pieces than peer-reviewed manuscripts and focus on particular institutional programs, activities, or policies. Rather than a blind peer review process, these pieces will be subject to a more informal review by the editors, contributing editors, or reviewers. Highlighting a special interest in Kentucky and regional higher education issues, the pieces are meant to be specific to Kentucky institutions or related to the surrounding region. We hope that these briefs provide a useful context for practitioners to engage in an ongoing and meaningful dialogue to exchange views and information concerning initiatives and programs at higher education institutions from around the state and region.

In addition to involving students in the editorial process, we are also pleased to include a section for the work of emerging scholars. As with the practitioner briefs, manuscripts in this category are not subject to a blind review process, as the goal is to provide a supportive atmosphere to help students sharpen their writing and editing by

working closely with the journal's editorial staff, including manuscript reviewers.

Submissions in this area may come to the attention of the editors in several ways, such as a suggestion from a faculty member working with a student on a course paper or through a student submitting directly to the journal. For accepted submissions, the author's will work closely with members of the journal and other individuals, such as faculty members, to strengthen the manuscript for publication. While there will be a preference for works by emerging scholars from Kentucky and the surrounding region, emerging scholar submissions are not limited by a focus to a specific geographic region.

We hope that the scholarship that emerges from this endeavor will be of value to scholars and practitioners from a variety of institutional settings and places. Thank you for joining us as we begin this intellectual journey.

Neal H. Hutchens, Faculty Editor, University of Kentucky

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