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Editors' Welcome

Cassandra B. Whyte Dr.

Stephen Young Marshall University

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Editors' Welcome

Many of us have worked hard to reflect over the past academic year (2020/2021). This academic year was nothing short of unique. Like the rest of the world, academia has experienced a number of challenges, leading to significant debate on necessary changes. The field of Criminal Justice and Criminology, both in and outside of the classroom, has been at the forefront of many of these conversations. Regardless of the issues, we have learned that we must work to improve and innovate as educators.

The pandemic brought about another year of adapting, learning, creating, implementing, assessing and teaching for criminal justice educators. Teachers delivered materials and motivated students towards excellence in higher education classrooms, both in person and virtually. The experience has opened doors to understanding new and innovative routes to applying knowledge.

One example of this innovation is last year's inaugural edition of **The Mid-Southern Journal of Criminal Justice.** This project of love was an outgrowth of many years of an annual printed journal. The now online publication, representing the **West Virginia Criminal Justice Educators' Association (WVCJEA)** is an open access publishing vehicle that offers opportunities for a broader range of scholars to publish on the various issues facing the criminal justice field today.

It is our hope that members of the WVCJEA and other readers appreciate the opportunities, innovations, and discussions via this publication. We greatly appreciate all of the work done by the students and faculty that allowed this edition to take form.

Your Editors,

Dr. Cassandra B. Whyte, Ed.D.

Dr. Stephen Young, PhD