

Letter From the Editors

Greetings! We are pleased to share the Fall 2023 issue of *Excelsior*. Included in this issue are six articles covering topics ranging from teacher persistence to disability studies informed related service provision to lessons learned from teacher education in the time of COVID. We are excited by the quality of the manuscripts and the continued efforts of our authors and reviewers. We are grateful for their commitment to the field and their service to the journal. We are feeling especially appreciative at this moment as this will be our last issue as co-editors. We recognize how many of you have stepped in to provide a last-minute review or agreed to look at a manuscript multiple times as we worked to support a junior scholar working toward their first publication. We can't thank you enough. *Excelsior* has truly grown over the last five years—publishing at least two issues a year in a fully open access online format. Our submissions and readership have also grown, extending beyond the boundaries of New York State to a national audience. Julia and I are pleased to have had a part in this growth but are excited to see the journal in new and capable hands. We can't wait to see where the next editorial team takes *Excelsior*! Please continue to support the journal with your submissions, your editorial service, and by sharing the published manuscripts with others.

When we accepted this role in 2018, we had no idea how radically the world would change. The last five years have seen racial unrest, political polarization, a global pandemic, military conflicts around the globe, backlash against efforts to diversify our schools and universities, and an ever-increasing educator shortage. But despite the seemingly endless change and challenge, children continue to go to school, and teachers and administrators continue to do their best to meet their needs. And teacher education programs need to adapt, adjust, and remain steadfast in our commitments to ensuring all students have equitable access to high quality educational opportunities. There have been many times over the last half decade when Julia and I have felt overwhelmed by the enormity of the challenges around us and discouraged by the increasingly toxic climate. I am guessing we aren't alone in our fatigue, our worry, and our stress. But we take heart in the collective commitment of our Syracuse University community and the efforts of NYACTE and the other educator preparation programs in New York State. We wish you all continued energy, passion for the work, but also rest. If we want to take care of our students, those in Pk12 and in our college classrooms, we also need to take care of each other.

Best Wishes,

Christy and Julia