

Letter from the Editor-in-Chief

May 3, 2020

Dear WMER family,

First, I would like to offer a word of thanks to our readers, our contributors, and our editorial staff for their support of the journal and its mission: to expand the reach of student research across educational disciplines. Launching a new journal volume is no small feat, and we achieved a good measure of success with quality content from outstanding contributors; hopefully, you will agree, too.

At the very heart of a journal is the impact it makes on its community of readers. This year WMER was charged with reviewing its purpose and measuring its impact to the communities it serves. The importance of assessing the impact of WMER goes beyond knowing the number of downloads of manuscripts and readers, but to measuring the impression it makes as reflected in the motivation, promotion, and collaboration within the educational communities. Since 2012, WMER has strived to give voice to student perspectives in the areas of teaching, leading, and learning. This volume is no different. While we currently are charting in new territory with managing and creating a new normal due to a pandemic, research and literature remains essential to understanding and exploring unknown phenomena, educating others about discoveries, and serving as an outlet to escape our current harsh realities. This year the WMER team worked tirelessly to gather manuscripts that demonstrated the importance of education and the strength in exhuming the stories of those destined to improve the educational landscape. This was no easy task, yet the team accomplished this goal while grappling with an abrupt ending to the academic school year. I believe that research serves as motivation or affirmation, but it should have positive results. As you are reading this publication, creating a personal research agenda, or preparing to submit a manuscript, I challenge you to think about the impact it will have on our current educational systems.

Yours in research, Jamon