

Editorial: Transitions, Thank Yous, & Introductions

Kristen Cuthrell, *Director, Rural Education Institute*
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This is our fourth year publishing *Theory & Practice in Rural Education*. Our editorial leadership is honored to work with our authors, reviewers, and you, our readers, in fulfilling our mission to disseminate high-quality articles addressing theoretical, empirical, and practice related issues in rural education. We are pleased to welcome Dr. Amy Swain, East Carolina University, Foundations of Education, as our next Executive Editor and Jennifer Williams, East Carolina University, Elementary Education, as our Journal Manager. As Amy and Jennifer transition into their new roles, I want to share my deepest appreciation to Dr. Laura Levi Altstaedter and Dr. Diane Kester for serving as the journal's inaugural executive editor and journal manager for the past four years. Their expertise and commitment to the journal has been invaluable and certainly a labor of love. Best wishes to both as they begin their next chapter.

As you view this issue, you will find our authors exploring timely topics across and among rural education stakeholders. We present a featured article highlighting the work of researchers in NC on rural equity principal preparation. Next, our authors in the Research Forum report on studies carried out both in K-12 and higher education contexts, focused on the following areas: rural principals' evaluative practices, preclinical field experiences with special education teachers, and community college's impact on developing human capital and social capital. Our authors in the Practice Forum explore the following themes, within teacher education and mental health contexts: implementing a teacher residency program, mobilizing community resources while integrating a trauma-informed intervention, and teacher candidate perceptions of instructional rounds. This issue also includes a book review on overcoming personal challenges of rural students with college-going systems.

TPRE is hosted by ECU Library Services and its publication is supported through East Carolina University's Rural Education Institute. All manuscripts submitted to TPRE undergo a doubleblind review process, which involves the coordinated efforts of the staff, including the Journal's Executive Editor, Journal Manager, Assistant Editors, Associate Editors, and Reviewers.

The following people and their continuous support for TPRE have contributed to the publication of this issue: Jan Lewis, Director J. Y. Joyner Library; Jennifer Williams, Journal Manager; Dr. Diane Kester, Journal Manager Advisor; Dr. Robert Quinn, Associate Editor for the Research Forum; Dr. Martin Reardon, Associate Editor for the Practice Forum; Hannah Grant, Assistant Editor; Emily Cheney, Assistant Editor; Joseph Thomas, Assistant Director for Collections and Scholarly Communication, Joyner Library; and Nick Crimi, OJS Administration, Joyner Library. We are especially grateful for the reviewers on our editorial board and the authors who contributed their work to this issue.

We are currently considering manuscripts for our next general issue, which we publish every Spring, and our guest-edited special issues on *STEM Education* (forthcoming in Fall 2022) and *Transformative Trauma-Informed Practices* (forthcoming in Fall 2023). We invite scholars and practitioners in the field of rural education to contribute their work for the Research Forum, the Practice Forum, the Digital Projects Forum, or the Book Reviews Forum. Manuscripts for our general issues are typically due in the fall with publication dates expected in May. Manuscripts for our special issues are typically due in late winter with publication dates expected during the fall.

If you are interested in becoming a peer reviewer, please go to the journal's website (<http://tpre.ecu.edu>) to register. Edit your profile and navigate to the tab "Roles" where you may select "Reviewer" and submit your interests concerning rural education.

About the Authors

Kristen Cuthrell, EdD, is a Professor at East Carolina University in the Department of Elementary Education and Middle Grades Education and serves as Director of the Rural Education Institute. Her research interests include reform in educator preparation, innovation in clinical experiences, and professional development in rural schools.

Laura Levi Altstaedter, PhD, is Associate Professor in the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures, ECU Harriot College of Arts and Sciences. Dr. Levi Altstaedter's research focuses primarily on second language (L2) pedagogy, including students' motivation to study foreign languages, perceptions of instructional innovations, and perceptions of assessment. In addition, her research focuses on teacher development. She has published multiple articles focused on L2 pedagogy and educator preparation in premier US-based journals in her field such as *Hispania* and *Foreign Language Annals*, as well as in international journals such as *Innovation in Language Learning and Teaching*, and the *Argentinean Journal of Applied Linguistics*. She serves as the Executive Editor for REI's *Theory & Practice in Rural Education*.



Mission: Initiate and facilitate partnerships and research-driven innovations that enhance holistic development and opportunities for pk-16 students and their families in rural communities. Collaborate with stakeholders towards positive transformation in families and schools.

Vision: Be a place where educational stakeholders in rural communities come and feel at home in accessing resources and support to address the issues that confront us.

Goals: Improve educational outcomes for rural students, school, and communities through

- ECU Next Gen: We grow the next generation of rural educators and researchers
- Local and Regional Development: We collaborate with schools and communities to build capacity for all.
- Rural Education Promotion: We articulate and advocate the importance of rural schools and communities.
- Research and Evaluation: We study our practice and investigate what works in rural schools.

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Contact us at ruraleducation@ecu.edu to connect and collaborate!