
Letter from Editor

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Letter from the Editor – March 6, 2020

Though submissions ebb and flow in the tidal cycle of the academic year JOEL readership remains strong and reminds me that there is a place for scholar-practitioners in the academic world of educational leadership.

Currently I am pleased to share two pieces from colleagues in Texas and North Carolina. In an age of accountability that has educators focused more on numbers and scores these authors remind us of the need for leaders to practice empathy and social justice in our schools and include these “soft” skills in educator preparation programs. Executive leader competencies usually include “emotional intelligence” and respect as core values, but how many leaders are truly prepared to practice empathy or social justice?

Teresa Warner from UNC-Wilmington makes her call for action in the article *Leading for Social Justice* while authors Mei Jiang and Shulan Lu argue that empathy is at the heart of transformational leadership in their article *To Empathize or Not to Empathize in Educational Leadership*. It's not a question in my mind. I believe that we have much to learn from these authors about the challenges ahead. Good luck and God Bless!

Jim Palermo, Ed.D

Editor