

## Letter from the Editor

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Letter from the Editor, Jim Palermo

July 9, 2020

That was then, this is now. Oh, what a difference a few months can make. When, in the Fall of 2019 we put out a call for articles on the state of principal preparation none of us considered the possibility that an 800 pound gorilla named Covid 19 was about to take up residence. Now it is the presence that we cannot ignore.

As editor and an optimist I am encouraged by the voices represented in this themed edition, and recommend that you read on for their introduction by our founding editor, Dr. Steve Bingham. Steve will fill you in on the history of our call and the progress of principal program redesign in our home state of North Carolina. But to ignore the gorilla would be a serious mistake. The research and opinions shared in this issue's submissions are important and valuable in the big picture of principal preparation, but pandemic has raised a whole host of other questions and issues. I am wondering, how should principals lead teachers and schools during pandemic? What do we know about best practices for leading blended and distant learning? What do we know about providing safe learning environments for adults and students? How do we address issues of equity and social justice during social distancing? Finally, how should principal preparation programs in our state adjust or change their programs to address these pressing needs? I hope that JOEL will be a vehicle to continue the conversation about how best to prepare future school leaders for this new reality.

That was then, this is now. Read on and take heart that good people are working hard to prepare leaders to guide our schools during this challenging time. At the nexus of research and practice, JOEL is committed to publishing voices in the conversation about next steps and best practices. Read and learn with us, then share the action research and best practices that will help others learn from your own experience. Be well.

Jim Palermo, Ed.D.

Editor