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Introduction to the Issue

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Editing this final issue of 2019 has allowed me an opportunity to reflect on some of the many highlights that *Journal of Public and Nonprofit Affairs (JPNA)* has experienced during this year; and, there are three highlights, in particular, that I would like to share with readers.

First, I successfully completed my first year as sole editor of *JPNA*. In the process, I had the opportunity to speak on editor's panels at nearly half a dozen academic conferences across the United States, as well as in Asia and Africa. Having these opportunities is exciting because they allow me to promote the work of *JPNA* to broader audiences.

Second, the journal has a new sponsor. The Center for Public Affairs Research, which is housed at University of Nebraska at Omaha in the College of Public Affairs and Community Service's School of Public Administration, is now *JPNA*'s fiscal sponsor. This sponsorship will allow us to continue disseminating high quality research in public and nonprofit affairs.

Finally, the 2019 Midwest Public Affairs Conference (MPAC) has come and gone; and, the turnout was impressive to say the least! Whether or not you attended this year's MPAC conference, I encourage you to submit your best work to *JPNA*. The journal provides a rigorous, open-source, and free-of-charge outlet for disseminating high quality research from diverse theoretical, methodological, and disciplinary perspectives focusing on topics related to the affairs and management of public and nonprofit organizations.

In this issue of the journal, there are four insightful *Research Articles* as well as a useful *Current Issues in Practice* piece—all of which focus on various aspects of public and nonprofit affairs. In the first *Research Article*, Hsieh, Guy, and Wang (2019) present results of their bibliometric mapping of emotional labor studies in public administration. In recent years, research using bibliographic data has provided significant insight into the intellectual history and diffusion of research in a variety of fields and disciplines. In their study, Hsieh and colleagues rely on bibliographic data to map the study of emotional labor in public administration; and, they reveal gaps that enable and encourage future researchers to move forward with further investigation and theory building on this topic.

In the second *Research Article*, Bednarczuk (2019) examines the role of religiosity in the public sector workforce. Specifically, he looks at the extent to which religiosity is associated with job satisfaction among public servants. Using data from the General Social Survey (2000–2016), the findings from this study demonstrate that religiosity has a direct impact in the public sector workplace. This finding, Bednarczu suggests, has numerous implications for public managers—ranging from management practice to service delivery.

Education has long been considered an important tool to adequately prepare future public servants to lead in complex environments. In the third *Research Article* of this issue, Lebovits and Bharath (2019) employ John Dewey's constructivist pedagogical approach to make the case that service-learning can be a vehicle to cultivate students' understanding of democracy as movement toward the common good. They use the term "real democracy" to describe the ways that substantive practices of Dewey's communal democracy materialize in today's public sector.

Often in nonprofit and public service delivery, there are marginalized and underrepresented voices. In the fourth and final *Research Article* of this issue, Martin-Howard (2019) highlights the underreported voices of black and coloured men and women employed at nonprofit organizations and living in underserved communities of South Africa. Specifically, using a single case study, she explores barriers and challenges to service delivery and funding at a nonprofit organization operating in South Africa's Western Cape Province (WCP).

Our *Current Issues in Practice* piece in this issue asks two questions: *How can cross-sector collaborations involving policy entrepreneurship, local government, businesses, and community organizations produce sustainability innovation? And, how can communities design and implement a successful energy-reduction competition?* The findings from this study offer practical insights for implementing bottom-up energy competitions as a tool for local sustainability.

The issue is completed with two book reviews. The first, by Meyers (2019), provides a review of Susan Gooden and RaJade Berry-James' book titled, *Why Research Methods Matter: Essential Skills for Decision-Making*. The second, by Dozier (2019), provides a review of Patrick Lo, Allen Cho, and Dickson Chiu's book titled, *World's Leading National, Public, Monastery and Royal Library Directors: Leadership, Management, Future of Libraries*.

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