

## Editorial Welcome

Welcome to Volume 1 Issue 1 of the Journal of Online Higher Education also known as JOHE. I would like to introduce myself as Editor in Chief. My name Dr. Carmen Herbel Spears. Many of you know me since I have worked with the Centers of Excellence in Higher Education (CEHE) and Independence University (IU) in Healthcare and health related programs since 2011. For those I have not met let me tell you a little about myself. Currently, I hold the position of Dean of the School of Healthcare for IU. I have worked in executive level management in healthcare for more years than I would like to remember, over twenty-five, and I have held executive level positions in online education for over twelve years. While this is the first time I have been Editor in Chief of a Professional Journal, I do have experience with publishing in other venues. I feel honored to be the charter editor of a journal that will bring valuable information and training to many professionals. I am especially excited the JOHE will showcase amazing talent and the skills of our faculty and staff at CEHE.

The Editorial Staff of JOHE are an amazing group and I would personally like to thank each and every one for the time and effort they have put into the work of this journal. Jeff Jensen is our IU Librarian and he is also the JOHE Administrator. Linda Bailey, Associate Dean of IU, serves as our Secretary, Joseph Dunlop, Associate Director of IU and Dr. Laura Newton Neal, Lead Associate Dean for Healthcare serve on the editorial board. Launching any new project is always difficult and launching one that has had challenges during the process is difficult. However, this group has been dedicated and diligent in giving their time voluntarily to this project. Once again let me say thank you for the knowledge, expertise and valuable input. Ya'll rock!

In this first issue we have a diverse selection of articles for your perusal. From healthcare related trends and how to deal directly with challenging social issues to the process of creating change in a University. The information should provide insight and valuable information. The contributors are exceptional educators and support staff who have dedicated their lives to serving the needs of our students, the University, and our staff. Please take the time to read through the articles. I think you will find the information both enlightening and valuable to your own professional practice.

Finally, I would like to say a few words about CEHE and IU. I feel privileged to work for an organization that has repeatedly put students and education first in all decisions. The commitment to an online professional peer-reviewed journal is just one more example of how our leadership cares about the students, instructors and staff. I look forward to seeing numerous really amazing articles submitted from all employees. I know each of you has expertise and information that adds to the body of knowledge of our profession and I am honored to provide an outlet to share this expertise.

Enjoy the first issue and please consider writing an article for future issues. Your expertise is valuable and should be shared with the world.

Yours in excellence in higher education,

*Dr. Carmen Herbel Spears*

Editor in Chief