

Editorial Welcome

What an amazing year this has been for the Journal of Online Higher Education. Along the path of this journey the editorial board and I have experienced milestones and events that will live in my memory for many years. I would like to take a few moments and relive the year with you.

The first issue was a both a challenge and a learning experience. The editorial board worked so hard to be sure we had all the pieces in place and everything was just like we wanted. Still there were some stumbles and things we wanted to do better. The issue itself contained articles written by our very distinguished staff at the Centers of Excellence in Higher Education. The varied information addressed both how to make online education more effective but also discussed things faculty and students could use to enhance the learning. The board was delighted to get articles that launched the JOHE with distinguished scholarship. It was an honor to finally watch the first issue come to life.

In the second issue, the editorial board decided to offer a stellar opportunity to the authors of Distinguished Master's Thesis Awards. These awards are given each year by Independence University at graduation. Three different graduate studies programs awards were given, Business, Healthcare, and Technology. I had the honor of speaking with two of the winners at graduation. When they were informed that their theses were also being published, the joy was apparent. I remember that feeling when my first published document was out there for all the world to see, read, and cite. To witness this feeling in the winner's was something I will always remember. The editorial board has set aside the second issue of every year for this honor and I can tell you the next potential winners are already on my desk and ready for review. It will make each year special. Watching newly graduated Master's students being honored in this way.

The third issue of the JOHE was exciting for the editorial board. We felt we were getting the hang of this thing and articles acquisition was less stressful and more interesting to watch the issue develop. We felt the information was cutting edge and informative. In this issue, new ideas were launched including a possible new adult learning model. We also launched an experimental research result that adds to the body of the knowledge of our profession of online higher education. The goal of the JOHE has always been to increase the knowledge of delivering higher education and delivering information that will increase the knowledge of the industries in which we teach. After all, learning is about both delivering the learning and what we are going to learn.

Now I write the last editorial welcome for the year and it is very poignant. The fourth issue was the least stressful so far. The articles seem to come in easily and with great information. The peer reviewers mostly did their jobs quickly and with great input. We even have articles for the next issue in place and being prepared as we speak. The first issue of our next year. That is amazing. Personally, I look for an even bigger and better year for JOHE in 2018. We have several initiatives that will make the issues exciting. We look forward to seeing what each of you has to offer the industry and our students. We plan to honor higher education with the best of what we can offer.

I will end this editorial welcome by saying thank you. Thank you to CEHE leadership who believed in us and this project. Thank you to the editorial board for your time and commitment.

A special thank you to our administrator Jeff Jensen whose tireless work is the only thing that has made all this possible. Thank you to the authors and peer reviewers who have given of their time to make this project happen. Thank you to the readers who take the time to read what we are producing. Thank you to everyone for what you have provided this year and what you will provide next year for the JOHE.

Yours in excellence in higher education,

Dr. Carmen Herbel Spears

Editor in Chief
Reference